

# STATE

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# MAGAZINE

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and outreach in Ecuador

OAA's video captioning team  
makes multimedia accessible

Bangkok Eco-Capitals Forum hosts conference





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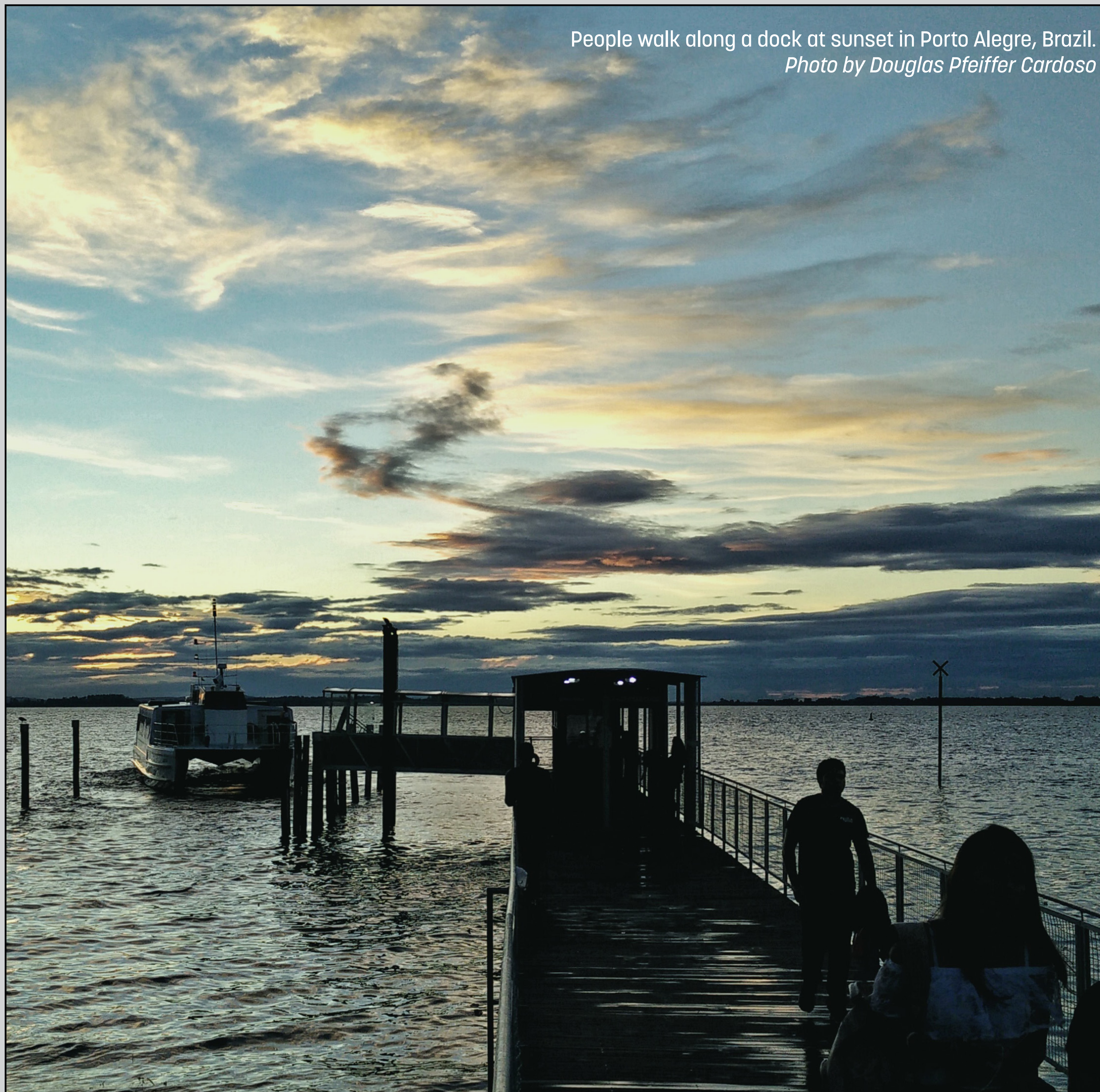
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People walk along a dock at sunset in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

*Photo by Douglas Pfeiffer Cardoso*





# STATE MAGAZINE

## State Magazine

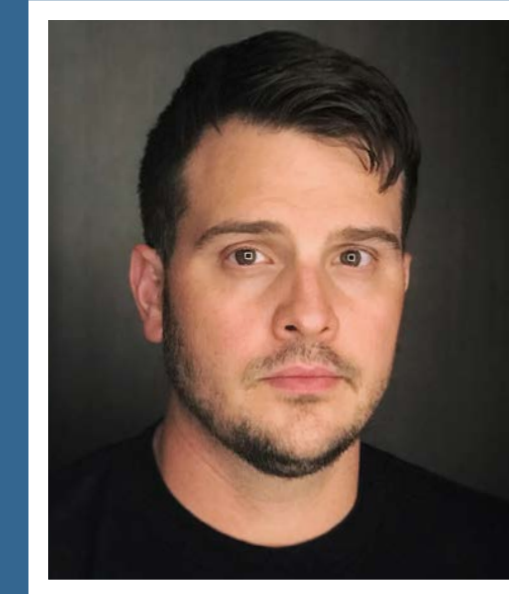
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## Deadlines

The submission deadline for the **October issue** is **August 20**.

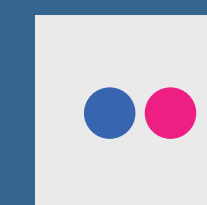
The deadline for the **November issue** is **September 20**.

## Editorial Contributions

Unsolicited artwork and manuscripts are not accepted, and publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of unsolicited artwork, photographs, or manuscripts. Query letters may be addressed to the deputy editor or [statemagazine@state.gov](mailto:statemagazine@state.gov)

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**From left:** Robert Manogue, John Gray and Ian Sheridan from EB get hands on with the merchandise at C.F. Martin & Co.

*Photo by Ian Sheridan*

**By Ian Sheridan**

*Ian Sheridan is a trade officer in the Office of Bilateral Trade Affairs in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs.*

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## EB Officers Discuss Trade-related Ideas with Iconic Guitar Maker

During a May 17 visit to Nazareth, Pa., officers from the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB), Office of Bilateral Trade Affairs (BTA) met with representatives from legendary acoustic guitar manufacturer C.F. Martin & Co. and toured the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities. The sixth-generation family business has made the guitar of choice for many of the biggest names and acts in 20th and 21st century American music, including Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams, Willie Nelson and Kurt Cobain. Today, the company employs approximately 600 people at its facilities in Nazareth and Sonora, Mexico, where it manufactures entry-level models.

C.F. Martin & Co. representatives shared some of the opportunities and challenges facing the firm as it charts continued growth in domestic markets and seeks to expand its presence overseas. The company has grappled with rampant trademark violations in China and has faced the challenge of meeting the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) tropical wood import/export requirements. CITES helps to target smuggled rosewood to China's luxury furniture manufacturers but has negatively impacted guitar manufacturers that practice responsible sourcing and supply chain management, and use relatively small amounts of the wood. C.F. Martin & Co. works through the Rainforest Alliance to achieve Forest Stewardship Council Chain-of-Custody certification in support of responsible management of the world's forests, and has partnered with other iconic American guitar brands such as Gibson, Fender and Taylor to promote responsible logging practices.

Over the years, EB has assisted C.F. Martin & Co.'s efforts to highlight these concerns by facilitating visits to Capitol Hill and the Department of State in Washington, D.C. During their recent visit, EB encouraged the company to make the U.S. Embassy its partner and first point of contact in every country where it does business. ■





**From left:** Bix Aliu, Adrienne Bory, Ambassador Cynthia Efir, Lisa Heller, Tim Marshall and PDAA Awards Committee Chair Elizabeth Thornhill gather at the PDAA annual awards ceremony, May 6, at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. Photo by Alan Kotok

By Jon Schaffer

*Jon Schaffer is a board member of PDAA and a retired employee of the Department of State.*

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## PDAA Awards Recognizes Public Diplomacy Excellence

The 2018 winners of the 21st annual PDAA Awards for Excellence in Public Diplomacy have demonstrated their ability to address the challenges of influencing public opinion globally. Winners include Mark Bosse, Shim Jai Ok and Adrienne Bory, as well as Embassy Bangkok’s public affairs section.

Bosse created support for a strong U.S.-Iraqi partnership at a time when senior Iraqi officials were making unfounded allegations of U.S. atrocities against civilians. Bosse developed and delivered a series of trainings for more than 150 media professionals and official spokespeople from 12 Iraqi ministries, leading to positive local and international media coverage.

In South Korea, Ok, executive director of the Fulbright program in Korea, persuaded both the South Korean and U.S. governments to fund a new fellowship targeting 3,100 college-aged defectors from North Korea. “Our hope,” wrote award nominator and former Seoul Cultural Affairs Officer Mark Canning, “is that the program will grow over the years to produce a cohort of western-educated defectors who will be well prepared to go back to North Korea and lead it into the global community when circumstances permit such a development.”

Information Officer Bory used social media platforms to circulate accurate, positive stories about U.S. engagement in Panama, transforming public opinion. Bory produced videos portraying the ambassador as approachable, helped Peace Corps Panama to launch its first-ever Facebook and Instagram accounts, and provided regular training to the media staff at the Panamanian Ministries of Security.

U.S. Embassy Bangkok’s public affairs section, led by Public Affairs Officer Melinda Masonis, received an award for its “Great and Good Friends” exhibition, highlighting the sustained and positive 200-year relationship between the U.S. and Thailand. The PDAA is a nonprofit organization of public diplomacy professionals. For more information, visit [PDAA's website](#). ■





Exchange alumnus Ian Knight stands with his photo, "Unity," which won grand prize in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Citizen Diplomacy Challenge Photo Contest. Photo by Matt Bikoff

By Matt Bikoff

*Matt Bikoff is the Alumni Outreach Coordinator in the Office of Alumni Affairs.*

## Exchange Alumni Celebrate Citizen Diplomacy

From May 21–25, the Office of Alumni Affairs at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) led a Department-wide celebration of citizen diplomacy. The week highlighted the power and impact of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs through multiple activities, including a photo exhibit of the winning entries of the 2017–2018 [Citizen Diplomacy Challenge Photo Contest](#).

From more than 200 photos submitted by Americans who took part in international exchange programs, 20 winning photographs were selected to be displayed at the U.S. Diplomacy Center. Each of the winning photographs told a story about what it means to be a citizen diplomat, and how international exchange touches lives and communities across the world.

The grand prize winning photograph, "Unity," was submitted by high school senior and Youth Leadership Program alumnus [Ian Knight](#). It captured him at prayer with other young students at a mosque in Thailand. This spring, Knight was able to share stories from his exchange program at engagements in his hometown of Missoula, Mont., including an awards ceremony at the mayor's office that resulted in a declaration of International Exchanges Day.

As the grand prize winner, Knight traveled to Washington, where he toured the exhibition, collaborated with other exchange alumni in an interactive diplomacy simulation and met with Department of State officials, including ECA Assistant Secretary Marie Royce. At the featured event titled "Citizen Diplomacy Live," ECA Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Zimdahl Galt recognized Knight and all the other exchange alumni who have shared their stories with American audiences. At the event, Knight spoke about the importance of youth exchange programs and the connections he built with exchange participants and his Thai host community. "I really believe," he stated, "that through more exchange programs, we'll be able to strive for a better world." ■

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**From left:** Lainey McGuiney, Sharon Keld, Sita Raiter, Dana Pinoli, Brooke Lorino, Lynn Virgil and Christine Dal Bello pose with Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, at the Gov Games award ceremony at Kite Beach in Dubai, May 12.

*Photo courtesy of Gov Games Dubai*

By Joanna Wulfsberg

*Joanna Wulfsberg is vice consul at U.S. Consulate General Dubai.*

## Athletes and Diplomacy Win at Gov Games in Dubai

From May 9-12, the Dubai Executive Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held the inaugural Gov Games, a competition designed to promote teamwork and physical fitness among civil servants. The brainchild of the Crown Prince of Dubai, the grueling course consisted of mental and physical obstacles such as “Below Zero” and “The Guillotine.” First to finish was the women’s team from U.S. Consulate General Dubai, consisting of seven diplomat-athletes from various agencies. Their grand prize was one million dirhams (about \$272,000 USD), which the team chose to donate to several UAE-based charities.

Ninety men’s teams and 69 women’s teams from Emirati and foreign government entities participated, including the Dubai Police, Ministry of Health, the U.K. Embassy in the UAE and the Los Angeles Police Department. While the U.S. Consulate men’s team barely missed making the final round, the women’s team finished fifth in the preliminaries. One key to their success was that they were the only team to conquer “The Human Ladder,” which involved climbing a slippery slope using only each other for support. In the championship, the six women’s teams had to run across the sand while carrying a log, swim under a burning beam, climb a net to the top of a 25-foot-tall wall, cross a tightrope, rappel down the wall, work together to solve a puzzle and run 1 kilometer around the stadium carrying a log. As team member Dana Pinoli commented, “The Foreign Service is a family, and that gave us the edge.”

The competition was broadcast on the UAE’s largest television sports network, and all of the country’s English- and Arabic-language newspapers highlighted the charitable donation, making the event a triumph for public diplomacy as well as athletics. ■





Ambassador Tamlyn and Colonel Nsia examine ranger uniforms to be given to rangers in Park W.  
Photo by Valerie Harden

By Valerie Harden

*Valerie Harden is a senior criminal justice advisor at U.S. Embassy Cotonou.*

## Teamwork Supports Security and Conservation in West Africa

U.S. Ambassador to Benin Lucy Tamlyn presented park ranger uniforms to Colonel Séverin Nsia, director of the Division of Water, Forestry and Hunting, May 26. The uniforms will be used by rangers who protect and secure W National Park, Benin. The pants, shirts, boots and coats were provided through the generosity of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division and facilitated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The uniform presentation ceremony took place at Pendjari National Park, coinciding with the graduation of 30 Pendjari park rangers who completed eight weeks of training.

Parks Pendjari and W are part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex. The 33,871 square kilometer (more than 8 million acres) WAP complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is home to elephants, hippos, buffalo, antelopes and exotic birds, as well as critically endangered mammals like the Saharan cheetah and West African lion. The WAP Complex is shared between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger, and includes nine protected areas.

Security in the WAP is a priority for the U.S. Embassies in Cotonou, Ouagadougou and Niamey. The embassies have coordinated closely to identify ways to support Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger in their efforts to secure porous borders from terrorists and prevent poaching in national parks through patrols and interdiction. In May, the Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs released a grant solicitation for new projects to train park rangers in the WAP, improve poaching investigations and prosecutions, and further cross-border coordination between the three countries. ■



# Diversity Notes

GREG SMITH  
OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS



## State of Inclusion

Each June, we celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month in honor of the Stonewall riots, which took place June 28, 1969. The Office of Civil Rights (S/OCR) and GLIFAA (LGBT+ pride in foreign affairs agencies) co-hosted [this year's Pride event](#) at the Department with keynote speaker Congressman Mark Takano (D-Calif.). Congressman Takano shared his experience of becoming the first openly gay person of color in Congress. I would like to thank both Congressman Takano for sharing his story and Deputy Secretary John Sullivan for providing poignant remarks and for his genuine support of advancing diversity and inclusion at the Department.

As I prepared my opening remarks for the event, I found an inspiring quote from American actor, director, author and activist George Takei. “We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference,” he suggests, “and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity.” His words offer a pragmatic yet moving approach to understanding those around us. Inclusion is not about changing values or conforming to cultural norms. It is about recognizing and retaining uniqueness and empowering others to contribute and feel a sense of belonging. The more understanding we gain from one another, the more we will stand with one another in the face of difference.

The rainbow flag associated with the LGBT community is a symbol of inclusion. Each stripe represents a quality of the LGBT community. The Department recognizes the rainbow flag as a symbol for LGBT pride around the world, and it flies from the flagpoles of many of our posts. The Department has also dedicated resources to advance LGBT rights both internally—through the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and S/OCR—and externally—through the Bureaus of Consular Affairs and Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

FSI has developed two training courses, [LGBT at State](#) (PT175), and [LGBT+ foreign affairs](#) (MQ130). PT175 emphasizes that the Department policy regarding nondiscrimination extends to LGBT employees, while MQ130 was specifically designed for LGBT employees, their partners and eligible family members who are or plan to be assigned to a U.S. Mission abroad.

My office, S/OCR, serves as an avenue through which employees can report harassment and file complaints of discrimination based on gender identity, gender stereotyping and sexual orientation. S/OCR also oversees employee affinity groups, such as GLIFAA, whose mission is to advance diversity and workplace equity in U.S. foreign affairs agencies and human rights for LGBT people around the world.

On May 17, in recognition of International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, Secretary Pompeo issued a statement. “The United States stands with people around the world in affirming the dignity and equality of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics,” the statement declares. “Human rights are universal, and LGBTI people are entitled to the same respect, freedoms and protections as everyone else.”

The Department's various programs intend to promote the success of our employees, and we strive to be, as Takei puts it, the “[S]tate of inclusion.” Please join me this month, and every month, in building this inclusive state, at State. ■



## Captioning @ State

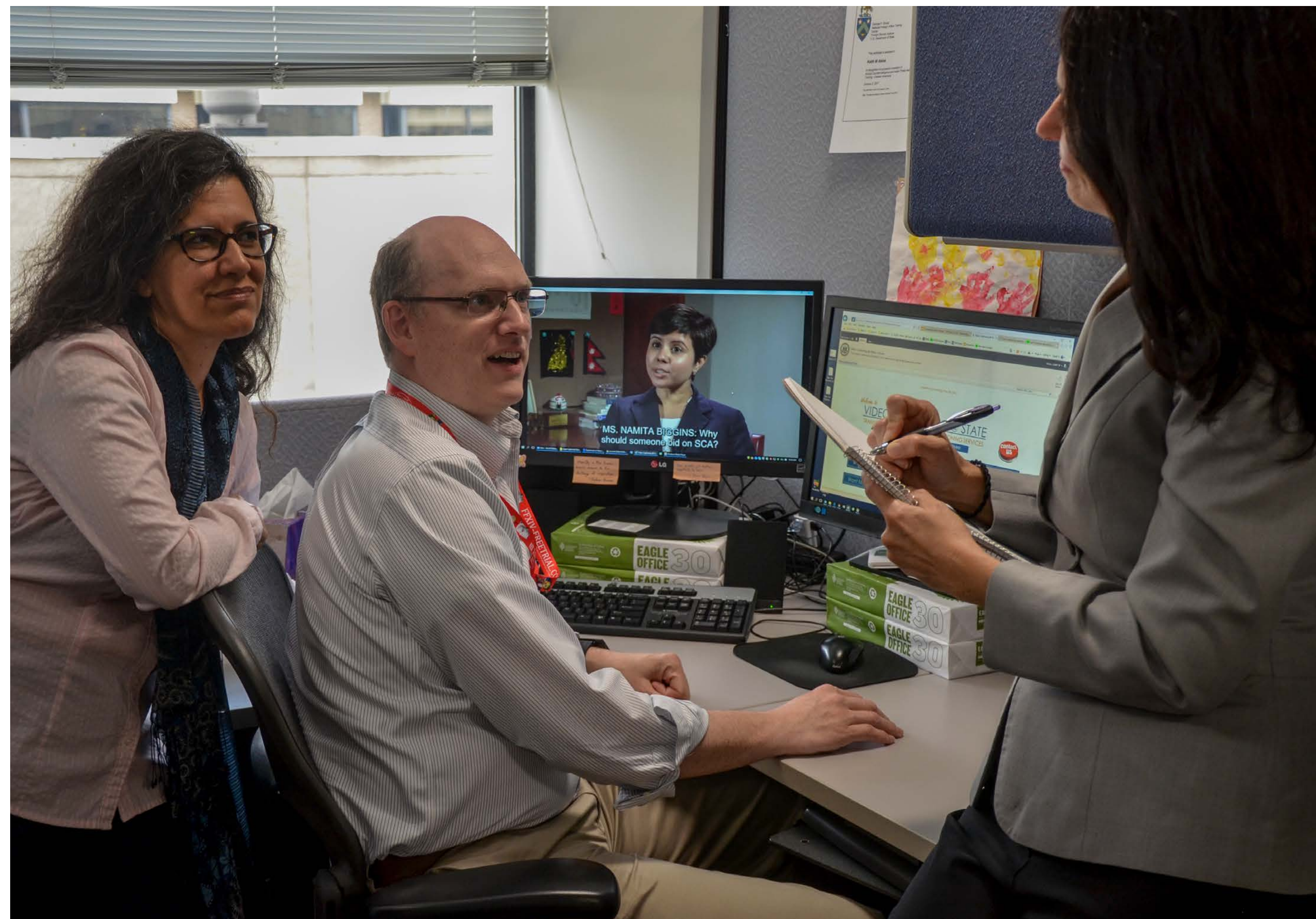
OAA's video captioning team makes multimedia accessible

By Suzanne Oliver, Ashley Jackson and Amanda Richard

**I**t's the law, and it's the right thing to do!

That is the motto of the Video Captioning @ State Program (VCP) located within the Bureau of Human Resources' Office of Accessibility & Accommodations' Accessibility Division (HR/OAA/AD). With more than 13,000 videos captioned, VCP helps to keep the Department of State in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to individuals with disabilities.

In 2010, the Disability Leadership Committee had concerns about the Department's ability to comply with both Department policy for information technology acquisition regarding accessibility, found in 5 FAM 915.7, as well as Section 508. The compliance gaps at the Department resulted in a lack of information for individuals with disabilities—both Department personnel and the general public—and presented potential legal vulnerabilities for the Department. To help resolve these issues and improve compliance, the Captioning Compliance Project was created to define the Department's compliance strategy. | *Cont.* | ▼



Maggie Groccia, Keith Akins and Allison Blackman discuss a captioning project, with a captioned video in the background. *State Department photo*





Members of the Video Captioning @ State team hold the award certificate from the Zero Project. From left: Allison Blackman, Suzanne Oliver, Keith Akins and Maggy Groccia. *State Department photo*

In 2013, the Video Captioning Implementation project began. VCP was then officially launched in May 2015, and became a part of the Office of Accessibility & Accommodations' Accessibility Division when HR/OAA was formed in May 2016. Since 2013, the team has captioned live events and videos, both new and old. VCP is centrally funded, which means there is no cost to Department bureaus to utilize this service. Coordinators of Department-sponsored events are responsible for requesting the captioning service.

VCP's mission is to make all Department video media for internal and external audiences accessible for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Section 508 requires federal agencies to caption all official video multimedia for both internal (Department employees) and external use by members of the general public. The term video media refers to all video, including YouTube videos, webinars, training videos and informational videos on office websites. | *Cont.* | ▼



All video and multimedia productions that support the agency's mission—regardless of format, language or intended audience—and contain speech or other audio necessary for the comprehension of the content, must be open or closed captioned. VCP has not only made video content accessible to people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, but has also improved outreach to foreign audiences who are interested in the message and can better understand when they can not only listen to the material, but also read the English text. Additionally, captioning allows for silent viewing at times when sound in public areas is disruptive.

Captioning involves displaying a text version of spoken words and sounds. Closed captions (or subtitles) is the visual display of sound (as text) on media and can be turned on and off. Open captions is permanent text burned into video media and is always visible. Subtitled foreign films are an example of open captioning. Live captions are spoken words that appear on a screen seconds after they are articulated and transmitted for live programs in real time. VCP offers live captioning in both English and Spanish. Post-production captioning is available in all major languages.

VCP uses innovative approaches in its effort to caption video media. Virtual Student Foreign Service interns caption YouTube videos and scour embassy websites looking for videos to caption. In-house direct-hire staff (some eligible family members) transcribe and caption in English and some foreign languages, work on SBU content, and provide support for special request projects as needed. Contracted vendors caption in English and more than 70 foreign languages. VCP uses SharePoint as both an informational website and as a tracking tool to accept and track captioning requests. Requests are submitted through the internal [VideoCaptioning@State](#) SharePoint site. A workflow of automated emails allows clients to track the status of their request.

The VCP team has set a standard for customer service. Most requests are completed in less than a week, and vendors can do same-day turnaround when needed. Clients frequently commend the team for outstanding customer service, with both email and telephonic assistance provided almost immediately.

In October 2017, VCP was selected as an innovative practice by the Zero Project, an international committee that disseminates and promotes replicable and innovative solutions to remove barriers for individuals with disabilities around the world by raising public awareness and stimulating reform.

Learn more about the Video Captioning @ State Program services, including how you can caption your own videos, by visiting the [Disability Dashboard](#) or emailing [VideoCaptioning@state.gov](mailto:VideoCaptioning@state.gov).

■ *Suzanne Oliver is an IT project manager in the Office of Accessibility & Accommodations' Accessibility Division; Ashley Jackson is a video captioning business services specialist in the Office of Accessibility & Accommodations' Accessibility Division; Amanda Richard is a strategic communications manager in the Office of Accessibility & Accommodations' Accessibility Division.*



# Building Sustainable Partnerships

Bangkok Eco-Capitals Forum hosts conference

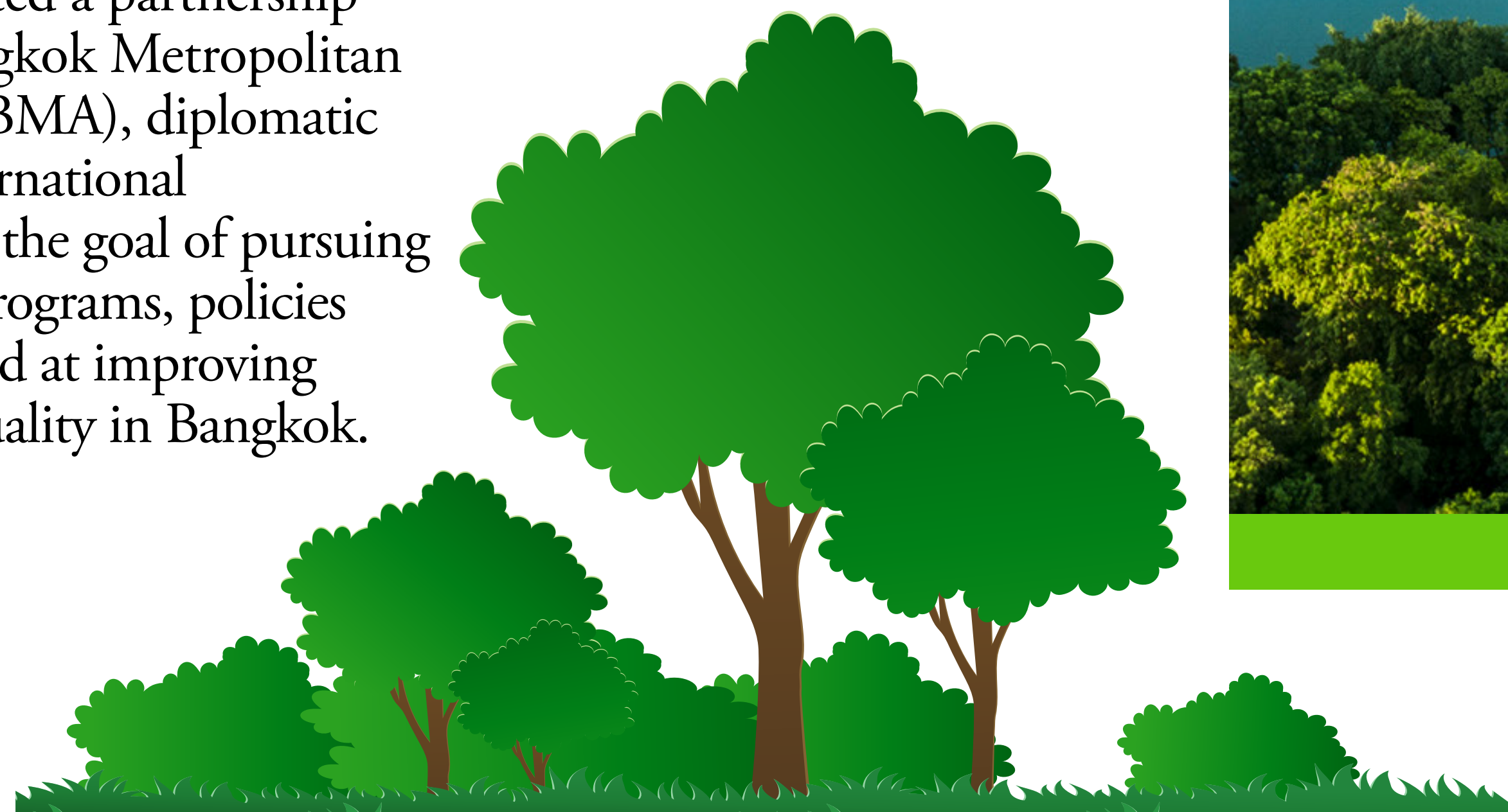
By Paul C. Jorgensen





**A**t the Bangkok Eco-Capitals Forum (BECF) Green Bangkok Conference on March 2, 70 representatives from embassies, government organizations, NGOs and environmentally focused companies met. The agenda reflected the ongoing, ambitious purpose of the BECF: to share environmental ideas, experiences and expertise of Bangkok's diverse diplomatic and public and private sector communities, benefiting the city and its people.

Formed 20 months ago through the efforts of U.S. Embassy Bangkok, the BECF is one of the newest chapters of the U.S. Department of State's Eco-Capitals Forum (ECF) movement. The original ECF, launched in Washington, D.C. in 2006, was created with the belief that embassies can act as hubs to connect people, organizations and innovations to respond to environmental challenges where they are located. In June 2016, BECF joined the Washington and Rome ECF chapters with a grand celebration in Bangkok's largest public space, Lumpini Park. That day included a tree-planting ceremony and remarks from U.S. Ambassador Glyn T. Davies and Bangkok Governor M. R. Sukhumbund Paribatra. Representatives from the Bangkok-based embassies of Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the EU Delegation to Thailand and the UNEP regional office for Asia and the Pacific, signed the Environment Performance and Sustainability pledge. This created a partnership between the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA), diplomatic missions and international institutions, with the goal of pursuing and promoting programs, policies and projects aimed at improving environmental quality in Bangkok.





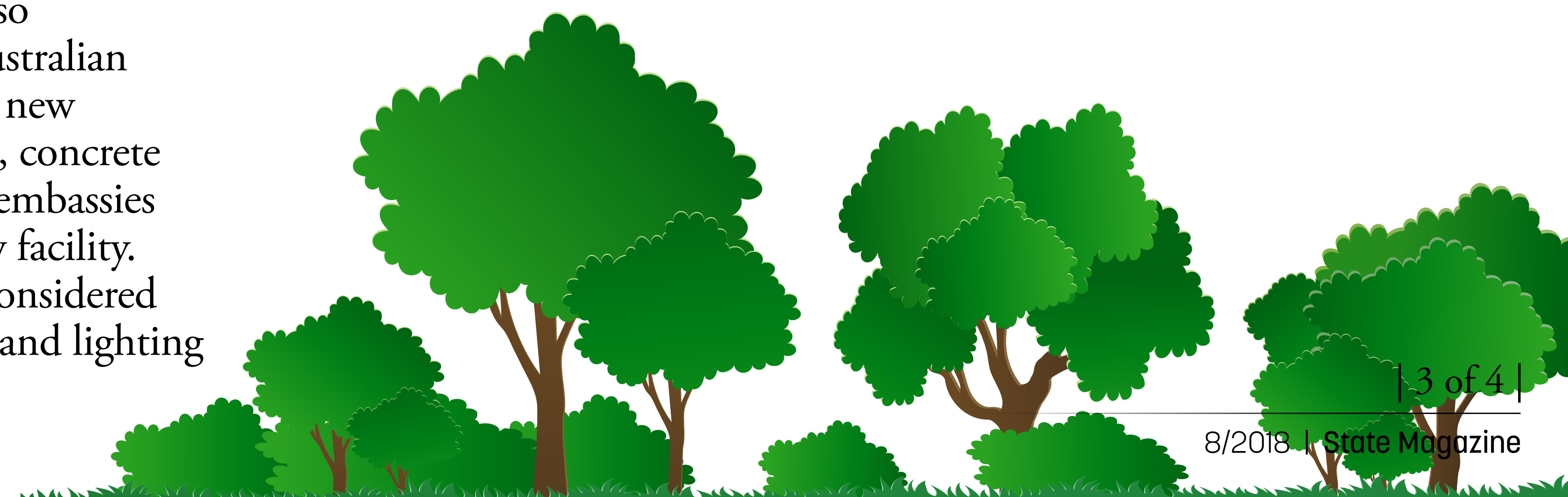
In his comments to this year's Green Bangkok Conference, Davies observed that Bangkok has grown rapidly since the 1950s, becoming the world-class city that it is today. Although that growth has been largely positive, this city of more than 8 million residents and 20 million annual visitors frequently faces unique environmental strains. Davies emphasized the responsibility to give back to Bangkok and shared lessons learned about environmental strains in our embassies and housing in other parts of the world. Davies highlighted Bangkok river cleanups, a turtle release on the U.S. Embassy grounds, and increased recycling efforts to illustrate the U.S.'s commitment to the BECF, calling on the BECF to continue its momentum forward.

Acknowledging BECF's strong start, attendees at the conference focused on taking BECF to the next level. Speakers from Earth Day Network, BECF member embassies, universities and environmental groups restated several common themes, including what many embassies already have: experience with environmental challenges to share with the community, access to laws and lawmakers who can make ecological impacts, and energetic employees and members who want to engage locally in environmental projects and education.

Observing that there are no borders to contain the Earth's air and water, Karuna Singh, regional director of the Earth Day Network, challenged attendees to find initiatives that go beyond single-event awareness of ecological challenges. While the original Earth Day in 1970 attracted 20 million people worldwide to talk about a cleaner environment, Singh noted that her group and groups like BECF now must find ways to teach and incentivize people to become stewards of the environment every day. BECF can generate the momentum to do this through funding, Singh acknowledged, but more readily through creating public-private partnerships and sharing the knowledge, talents and privileges of the embassy community.

Creating ongoing environmental champions, rather than single-event attendees, was echoed by Wayne Phillips, lecturer in ecology and conservation at Bangkok's Mahidol University. Speaking on the ubiquity of plastics and our poor handling of plastic wastes, Phillips explained that river cleanups, while providing a great sense of commonality to action, do not bring around the more important change that is needed. He called on BECF to help local organizations to collect data on pollution in order to set baselines for goals, get permissions and access to pollution sites, and procure funding to provide more engaging education that will encourage people to change behaviors that negatively impact the environment.

The efforts of individual BECF members were also highlighted. Representatives of the Austrian and Australian embassies revealed the eco-friendly features of their new Bangkok facilities. Using sustainable farmed woods, concrete thermal insulation and water cistern systems, both embassies were able to lower the carbon footprint of each new facility. Bangkok's high heat, humidity and rain were also considered when embassy designers selected recessed windows and lighting





to lower internal temperatures, green grounds and porous decking to absorb rain waters and eliminate flooding, and durable materials to resist harsh weather while lowering maintenance costs. With a solar-paneled roof that provides more energy than the facility demands, the new Austrian Embassy Bangkok is both net-zero energy and the most efficient of Austria's embassies worldwide.

Smaller scale projects were also discussed. French Embassy Bangkok representatives joined with representatives from a locally based, private Japanese company to explain a simple process for their air-conditioning unit. By retrofitting their embassy's air-conditioning system with low-cost, flexible ceramic and polyethylene screens, they were able to reduce the air-conditioning energy consumption in their facility by 25 percent.

Leading by example on environmental issues was praised by Landon Van Dyke, senior advisor for Environment, Energy and Sustainability at the U.S. Department of State. With more than 22,000 buildings and 14,567 vehicles in 274 cities worldwide, the Department faces substantial environmental challenges, as Van Dyke underscored. In response, the 2009 Greening Diplomacy Initiative (GDI) was launched to address those challenges, monitoring new technologies, creating public-private partnerships and even producing a massive solar farm to supply energy to the main Department of State building and international embassies in Washington, D.C. Van Dyke congratulated the ongoing efforts of Embassy Bangkok for receiving several GDI awards for its environmental initiatives, and encouraged the BECF to continue contributing its collective expertise to unlock innovative ways to support Bangkok's sustainability goals.

Private groups also presented innovative environmental initiatives to the Green Bangkok Conference. One group, the Thai Scholars of Sustenance, recovers and redistributes food from Bangkok hotels, markets and stores to places in need. Their efforts have educated people to identify and separate food waste and compost. As a result, the recipients of the food are able to focus on other core efforts. Another group, the Bangkok Organic Farmers Market, has worked with several BECF member embassies and economically incentivizes Thai farmers and sellers to reduce use of plastics and separate waste at its markets.

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) Environment Office Deputy Director General Wullaya Wattanarat acknowledged that the Bangkok community and government recognizes BECF as a valuable resource and partner. Wattanarat characterized BECF as a window to cooperation and information-sharing between the embassy community and the Bangkok government. She added that her organization was hopeful that BECF could help BMA reach its goals for solid waste management, increasing green spaces, energy conservation and environmental awareness.

Sharing more, doing more and highlighting BECF's efforts in the coming year were the concluding points from Henry Jardine, management counselor at Embassy Bangkok. He praised BECF members and attendees for their collaboration to create the dynamic seminar. Jardine encouraged BECF to increase its partnerships with private and government entities in Bangkok, and to look for even more opportunities to raise BECF's profile as a strong resource for confronting environmental challenges.



Earth Day Network Regional Director Karuna Singh encourages building momentum in environmental stewardship through creative partnerships.

*Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Bangkok*

■ *Paul C. Jorgensen is an eligible family member at U.S. Embassy Bangkok.*



# NDU HOSTS INAUGURAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAY

University recognizes Department's role in national defense

By Ambassador Mike Hammer

**T**he National Defense University (NDU) has a well-established reputation for effectively grooming the next generation of national security leaders. While half of NDU's 700 students serve in the U.S. military, the other half consists of civilians from across the U.S. government, plus officers from America's allies and partner nations. The largest cohort of civilians comes from the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, with about 60 students, faculty and senior leaders.

| *Cont.* | ▼

Deputy Secretary John Sullivan speaks on the occasion of the induction of Ambassadors Joyce Barr and Bill Brownfield into the National Defense University's National Hall of Fame.

*Photo by Katie Persons Lewis*



Ever since Ambassador George F. Kennan served as the first deputy commandant and international advisor at the National War College (NWC) in 1946–47, the Department of State has contributed to preparing our military and civilian students to become strategists who address complex issues and adapt to rapidly evolving environments. At the core of NDU's curriculum is the imperative that for national security strategy to achieve maximum effect, it needs to be a whole-of-government approach that incorporates all elements of national power, including diplomatic, information, military and economic resources. "NDU provides a critical platform," Ambassador Makila James, an NWC Department of State faculty member and alumnus of NWC, notes, "for Foreign Service officers to explain the importance of diplomacy as an instrument of U.S. national power and to assist our military colleagues in appreciating the role that diplomacy plays in ensuring national security during peacetime and war."

Because our military services celebrate their respective histories and service to the nation on their "birthdays," it seemed natural



Ambassadors Dick Norland, Joyce Barr and Tom Krajeski smile during NDU's Foreign Affairs Day reception.

*Photo by Katie Persons Lewis*

to propose to the NDU President Vice Admiral Frederick Roegge that NDU similarly recognizes the Department of State's contributions to the national security enterprise with a Foreign Affairs Day. Vice Admiral Roegge not only endorsed the idea, but also agreed the most appropriate way to acknowledge diplomats' service was to use the occasion to induct accomplished Foreign

Service alumni into NDU's National Hall of Fame.

Scores of deserving alumni who have served as ambassadors were considered. On May 9, NDU inducted Career Ambassador William R. Brownfield, National War College Class of 1993, and Ambassador Joyce Barr, Industrial College of the Armed Forces/Eisenhower Class of 2001. Deputy Secretary John Sullivan delivered the keynote speech. "We encourage our diplomats to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them here [at NDU]," Sullivan said, "because they always return to the Department better prepared to serve and to lead. NDU prepares its students to face global strategic challenges with a whole-of-government approach," Sullivan continued, "and to think and operate effectively at the highest levels in an increasingly complex and unpredictable security environment." More than 300 people, including about 50 former and current ambassadors, attended the event, surpassing expectations.

The induction was followed by a panel discussion moderated by NDU Hall of Fame member and three-time Ambassador Ron Neumann, NWC '91, who is currently serving as president of the American Academy of Diplomacy. Department of State students heard about lessons learned and the criticality of fostering strong interagency cooperation. "At the end of the year (at NDU)," Ambassador Brownfield noted, "we had a much greater understanding how these two professions operated. In my next job, we established the first international police mission in Haiti, and I dealt with two classmates. These lessons played out for the next 25 years of my life." | *Cont.* | ▼



Audience members at the NDU Hall of Fame induction share a lighter moment. Front row, from right to left: Ambassador Ruth Davis, Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Ambassador Jane Becker, Ambassador Marcie Ries, Ambassador Beth Jones, former Assistant Secretary Eric Boswell and NDU students.

*Photo by Katie Persons Lewis*



Ambassador Barr felt that her education boosted her Foreign Service career by strengthening her leadership skills and learning the complexities of the interagency environment. It is important for students to envision where their careers might lead if they practice what they learn at NDU and to hear positive reinforcement about the value of their profession.

“I admit that I arrived at NDU with some skepticism, but the experience has really been great—far exceeding my expectations,” said Danny Fennell, the College of International Security Studies student who was the master of ceremonies for the Hall of Fame induction. “It is useful to examine the theory and social science behind our foreign affairs work, reading classics of international relations and having access to current cutting-edge research. It’s also gratifying to know that the contributions of the Department of State are valued by our interagency partners.”

Recognizing that the information domain is becoming increasingly important and challenging with cyber threats and “fake news,” NDU partnered with the Foreign Service Institute to hold a public affairs workshop as part of the first-ever NDU Foreign



Ambassadors Aurelia Brazeal, Sylvia Stanfield, Ruth Davis and Bill Brownfield chat at NDU’s Foreign Affairs Day reception. *Photo by Katie Persons Lewis*

Affairs Day. Department of Defense employees, law enforcement and Department of State public affairs experts shared experiences and best practices in strategic communications and countering disinformation. There was consensus that in order to best advance policy objectives, it is key to respond rapidly to breaking events and actively work to influence the narrative.



Senior Department of State leaders hold a ceremonial knife during the cake-cutting ceremony for the first-ever Foreign Affairs Day at NDU. From left: AFSA President Barbara Stephenson, Ambassador Mark Pekala, Eisenhower School Commandant Maj. Gen. John Jansen, Ambassador Makila James, Ambassador Mike Hammer and Ambassador Tom Daughton. *Photo by Katie Persons Lewis*

To cap off the celebration, President of American Foreign Service Association Ambassador Barbara Stephenson joined NDU’s Department of State leadership for a cake-cutting ceremony. The senior U.S. Marine at NDU, Eisenhower School Commandant Maj. Gen. John Jansen, began a new tradition and participated in our Foreign Affairs Day to reflect on the special bond between our embassies and Marines. NDU is committed to having Foreign Affairs Day be an annual event that highlights the Department of State’s indispensable role in defense of our nation, and we expect Department alumni to show up in force each year.

■ *Ambassador Mike Hammer is acting senior vice president of National Defense University.*



# Porto Alegre

**Consulate builds connections in burgeoning Brazilian hub**

Story by John Jacobs and Rob Joswiak





**P**assing through one of Porto Alegre's tree-lined neighborhoods, visitors will hear the sounds of children playing soccer and dogs barking. Joggers and walkers exercise, while many of the city's 1.5 million residents relax and drink Chimarrão at one of the numerous parks nestled throughout the 84 different neighborhoods that make up the capital of Brazil's southernmost state, Rio Grande do Sul.

Residents of Rio Grande do Sul, known as gaúchos, take pride in their state's long history of independence and bravery. Chimarrão is a staple of daily life here and is the official state drink. It is a caffeine-rich tea, which locals drink out of a handcrafted gourd, known locally as a cúia. Gaúchos drink it at any social occasion and share it among friends, family and co-workers.

Porto Alegre sits on the northeast end of the Guaíba River, which ultimately flows into the Atlantic Ocean some 150 miles south of the city. It is on the banks of this large river, which forms one of the world's largest lagoons, where sunsets mesmerize locals and tourists alike with its beauty.

Porto Alegre, which means "happy port" in Portuguese, was founded in 1772 by Portuguese immigrants. It quickly became one of the most important cities in southern Brazil due to its strategic location on the border of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. In 1822, the United States was the first country to recognize Brazil as an independent nation, and in 1835, the U.S. opened a Consular Agency in the nearby port of Rio Grande. The agency's focus was to facilitate trade and support the large number of U.S. merchants operating in the region. Porto Alegre continued to flourish as the trade and government center of southern Brazil. In recognition of the region's importance, the U.S. opened a consulate in the state capital in 1918. The consulate maintained a presence in Porto Alegre until 1996, when it transferred oversight for Rio Grande do Sul to the U.S. Consulate General in Sao Paulo. | *Cont.* | ▼



Porto Alegre's residents take advantage of the city's numerous parks, including its most famous Moinhos de Vento (Windmill) Park.

*Photo by Mariella Razuri Black*



Rio Grande do Sul in the Vineyards Valley two hours north of Porto Alegre is famous in Brazil for its sparkling wine.  
*Photo by Nicholas Geboy*







Deputy Chief of Mission Bill Popp and Principal Officer Julia Harlan congratulate 50 recipients of the English Access Microscholarship Program.

*Photo by Alex Black*

U.S. Consulate Porto Alegre reopened in June 2017 with a focus on supporting and strengthening the robust business and trade relationship between the United States and southern Brazil. The consular district includes the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina. Today, Rio Grande do Sul is Brazil's fifth most populous state and is home to the country's third largest industrial center. Bordering Argentina and Uruguay, it is an important hub for many of Brazil's largest companies. Likewise, Santa Catarina, which also shares a border with Argentina, is home to significant industry. The region hosts a number of U.S. investments, including John Deere, General Motors, Whirlpool and DuPont factories. U.S. investment totals more than \$1 billion.

Since opening, Consulate Porto Alegre has focused on supporting the business relationship between the U.S. and Brazil. "Southern Brazil already has an important trade and investment relationship with the United States," said Principal Officer Julia Harlan. "But there is tremendous potential here for us to expand our partnerships and create long-term bonds between U.S. and Brazilian companies, as well as between our people." As a whole, Brazil is a major source of foreign direct investment in the United States, with current investment exceeding \$36 billion. | *Cont.* | ▼





Because of this strong investment relationship, Porto Alegre recently hosted a Department of Commerce SelectUSA roadshow, in which a hundred companies gathered to learn about investment opportunities in the U.S. The event brought together Brazilian and American executives, and representatives from several U.S. government agencies and from three U.S. states. During the event, participants shared experiences and testimonies from past efforts to internationalize their businesses and held 185 one-on-one meetings with U.S. economic development agencies and U.S. service providers. Several of the participants traveled to Washington as part of Brazil's official delegation to the SelectUSA Summit in June 2018.

The public affairs section amplifies the consulate's economic engagement by organizing public programs and visiting speakers to share experiences with students and entrepreneurs about the power of innovation and networking. "Working in southern Brazil presents countless opportunities for engagement, as the public has a huge thirst for U.S. expertise and interaction," said Public Affairs Officer John Jacobs. "The high level of social capital means that both sides can benefit significantly from any activities we support regardless of the subject, but we have had an exceptionally strong response to a number of programs focused on innovation and entrepreneurship."

Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina are also home to a rich research environment, hosting many of Brazil's best universities. The states have 22 technology parks, most of which are affiliated with these universities, and | *Cont.* | ▼



they host U.S. technology companies including Dell, HP and ThoughtWorks, as well as a number of other equally prominent European technology giants.

The consulate is also developing strong ties and cooperation with the judicial and law enforcement sectors in support of Mission Brazil's security objectives. To support the Brazilian judicial sector, the consulate coordinated the visit of Judge Steven Alm, a retired state judge from Hawaii, who created Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. Judge Alm spoke to law students, court administrators, and federal and state judges in Porto Alegre about how Hawaii has used the HOPE program to dramatically reduce recidivism. Brazilian judicial authorities found Judge Alm's presentations of particular interest as they look for alternatives to incarceration to alleviate overcrowding in Brazil's penitentiary system.

Mission Brazil brought three Miami Police officers to Porto Alegre for a weeklong training course on gender-based violence with 50 detectives and prosecutors. "For my office, it's a great way to publicize the presence and relevance of American Federal Law Enforcement in Rio Grande do Sul," stated Regional Security Officer John Mazzuchi. "For the consulate, it solidifies an already good relationship with the Rio Grande do Sul police, and brings U.S. programmatic resources into our consular district."

Expanding English-language learning opportunities and strengthening educational ties are other top mission priorities. | *Cont.* | ▼



Southern Brazilian 'Gaúchos' practice traditional folk dances.

*Photo by Mariella Razuri Black*



Consulate Porto Alegre co-sponsored a self-defense workshop to raise awareness as part of the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

*Photo by John Jacobs*



The consulate in Porto Alegre is demonstrating the capacity for long-term benefits of these ties to the U.S.-Brazil relationship. The consulate takes particular pride in its English Access Microscholarship Programs. Recently, 47 students from low-income families in Porto Alegre graduated from the two-year program with a new level of English fluency that would have been difficult for them to gain otherwise. The students universally credit the program with improving their lives and opening up opportunities to continue on to higher education or get higher paying jobs using their English skills.

The consulate encourages Brazilian students to attend U.S. colleges or universities, and students rely on EducationUSA offices in Joinville, Santa Catarina and Porto Alegre as resources for guidance counseling and navigating the application process. The consulate recently signed a memorandum of understanding with one of the region's largest universities to open a second EducationUSA office in Porto Alegre and hopes to open an additional office in one of southern Brazil's other large cities in the coming months. Consular and public affairs staff regularly speak at education fairs to encourage students to study in the U.S. and explain the visa application process.

Hundreds of Brazilians apply for nonimmigrant visas to travel to the United States every day in Porto Alegre. Beyond students looking to study in the United States, most applicants are tourists. Popular destinations for travelers from southern Brazil include Florida, New York, Nevada and California. The consular section also provides services to the sizeable American population in Brazil. | *Cont.* | ▼



Musicians from local NGO Sol Maior performed as an opening act at a consulate-sponsored music exchange.

*Photo by Fabian Hickenbick*



American entrepreneur Ingrid Vanderveldt visited Porto Alegre as an invited speaker and met the owners of 0 Amor é Simples, a startup selling affordable wedding gowns, whose founder participated in a Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative exchange in 2016.

*Photo by Kerley Tolpolar*



The impact of the consulate on potential travelers from the region to the U.S. is immense. “The consulate is very active facilitating travel for the almost 30 million residents of southern Brazil,” Consular Chief David Franz explained. “U.S. citizens have convenient access to a broad array of services. Visa applicants frequently express their pride that the United States recognized the region with a consulate here.”

The U.S. presence in the south of Brazil dates back more than 180 years and has been further strengthened by the consulate's activities. Today's diplomats and other employees work hard to continue and build upon that rich history, developing innovative new programs and activities. Americans and Brazilians are working together to ensure this enduring relationship will continue to grow. "Consulate Porto Alegre's engagement with southern Brazil is emblematic of the tremendous potential all of Brazil offers," Ambassador Michael McKinley noted. "From developing trade and investment opportunities, to supporting people-to-people relationships and the exchange of professional expertise and personal bonds, the U.S. Mission to Brazil continues to demonstrate the value of investing in a strong U.S. presence in the second largest country in our hemisphere and an important partner."

■ *John Jacobs is the public affairs officer at Consulate Porto Alegre. Rob Joswiak is a vice consul at Consulate Porto Alegre.*

From the Guaíba River, visitors can view the skyline of Porto Alegre. *Photo by Fabian Hickenbick*





At a Glance

Brazil



**Capital:**  
Brasilia

**Government Type:**  
federal presidential republic

**Area:**  
8,515,770 sq km

**Population:**  
207,353,391 (July 2017 est.)

**Religions:**  
Roman Catholic 64.6%, other Catholic 0.4%, Protestant 22.2% (includes Adventist 6.5%, Assembly of God 2.0%, Christian Congregation of Brazil 1.2%, Universal Kingdom of God 1.0%, other Protestant 11.5%), other Christian 0.7%, Spiritist 2.2%, other 1.4%, none 8%, unspecified 0.4% (2010 est.)

**Ethnic groups:**  
white 47.7%, mulatto (mixed white and black) 43.1%, black 7.6%, Asian 1.1%, indigenous 0.4% (2010 est.)

**Languages:**  
Portuguese (official and most widely spoken language)

**Exports (commodities):**  
transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, automobiles

**Export partners:**  
China 21.8%, US 12.5%, Argentina 8.1%, Netherlands 4.3% (2017)

**Imports (commodities):**  
machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil, automotive parts, electronics

**Import partners:** China 18.1%, US 16.7%, Argentina 6.3%, Germany 6.1% (2017)

**Currency:**  
Brazilian real

**Internet country code:** .br



Map produced by the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues



# 2018 Foreign Affairs Day

Reviewing the past, looking toward the future

By Heidi Howland

**F**oreign Affairs Day at the Department of State is inspiring, engaging and slightly intimidating. Each year, the Dean Acheson Auditorium fills with hundreds of retired Foreign and Civil Service employees with immeasurable knowledge and expertise. This year's 53rd Foreign Affairs Day was no exception. "I count about 12,000 years of experience in the room," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo noted after he took the stage to welcome the audience in the afternoon.

Deputy Under Secretary for Management William Todd gave opening remarks and set the tone for the day, thanking everyone for their service to our country. "Your contributions are immeasurable," said Todd. "And your efforts are greatly appreciated." Next, DACOR President James Benson presented the Foreign Service Cup to Ambassador Henry Allen Holmes, a career Foreign Service officer for 40 years.

A plenary session with then Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon followed, and retired employees had the opportunity to attend a variety of seminar sessions throughout the rest of the morning. Some attendees joined a luncheon where Todd presented the Director General's Cup for the Civil Service and the Director General's Cup for the Foreign Service. Acting Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs and Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert gave a keynote address, and Deputy Secretary John Sullivan addressed the audience with a keynote speech in the afternoon.

The day presented an opportunity to review past experiences and look ahead to the future. Throughout the day, retirees and current employees heard from senior policymakers, learned how the Department is adapting to new challenges and connected with former colleagues. The day ended with the AFSA memorial ceremony, honoring two members of the Foreign Service who died this past year while serving abroad.

Nauert underscored the importance of the continued work that Department employees do every day. "Given today's challenges, the art of diplomacy is as crucial, and as indispensable, as it has ever been," she said. We have the talent to tackle those challenges because, as Secretary Pompeo stated, "we've built a strong, diverse corps of the best foreign affairs professionals in the world."





### **Ambassador Henry Allen Holmes (Foreign Service Cup)**

A career Foreign Service officer for 40 years, Ambassador Henry Allen Holmes served overseas and in Washington in a series of positions of ever-increasing responsibilities, including principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian Affairs, assistant secretary of state for Political-Military Affairs, ambassador-at-large for burden sharing and ambassador to Portugal. Since retiring, he has continued to devote his time and talents to advancing international affairs, most notably as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Ambassador Holmes has been a true advocate of U.S. policy and the Foreign Service. His leadership and dedication are recognized through the 2018 Foreign Service Cup award.



### **Richard L. Greene (Director General's Cup for Civil Service)**

As a career member of the Senior Executive Service, Richard Greene led a distinguished 27-year career with the Department, with principal assignments that included deputy director and acting director of U.S. Foreign Assistance; principal deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; U.S. Consul General in Sydney; and assistant secretary of state and chief financial officer of the Department. Greene received numerous performance awards, including the prestigious Presidential Performance Award and Presidential Rank Award with the rank of Distinguished Executive, which is the highest award available for a member of the Senior Executive Service. His commitment, leadership and continued outstanding performance are recognized through the 2018 Director's Cup for Civil Service.



### **Ambassador Kristie Kenney (Director General's Cup for Foreign Service)**

Ambassador Kristie Kenney is one of the nation's most experienced diplomats and holds the Department of State's highest rank of Career Ambassador. Over her 30-year career, she has represented the United States abroad as ambassador three times and served in senior positions at the Department of State and the White House. Kenney currently teaches a course on leadership at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and is a frequent public speaker on leadership and foreign policy. Her continued leadership, innovation and dedication to future generations are recognized through the 2018 Director's Cup for Foreign Service.



# INNOVATION SPACE

**New AV studio enhances communication and outreach in Ecuador**

**By Johanna Villalobos and Silvia D'Aniello**

A modern atmosphere greets visitors as they enter Mission Ecuador's new multipurpose audiovisual (AV) training and production space. The walls are decorated with strategically placed black geometric panels that absorb sound, and sleek new sofas, chairs and tables complete the decor. This inviting entryway welcomes visitors to one of the most well-equipped video production rooms in Ecuador.

The AV studio is equipped with professional cameras, lighting, an audio booth, video control room, post-production software for both audio and video, and a virtual set editor. A green screen allows users to create visual effects and change the background to any location they can imagine. This studio offers the enhanced capabilities of a modern studio for a variety of multimedia products, and includes field production equipment, such as portable cameras, microphones and drones.

Mission Ecuador recently inaugurated this studio, El Panecillo—named after a hill that overlooks historic Quito. One of its goals is to expand the outreach to target audiences, especially students, journalists, civil society groups, trade organizations and academic institutions. Increased video production with high-quality, strategically developed content will facilitate engagement with these groups and support the promotion of embassy messages around its goals of deepening democracy, increasing prosperity, strengthening security and expanding consular outreach. | *Cont.* | ▼



The studio's video production capabilities have the potential to increase the embassy's social media following. Ecuador currently registers 13 million internet users, and while only 37 percent of the population has internet access at home, 84 percent of digital media users go online via mobile devices. A 2017 study of Ecuadorian millennials and their digital consumption habits highlighted that 70 percent of 18-35-year-olds in Ecuador are active on their phones five times per hour, or 80 times per day, and 90 percent are on Facebook. These young people are also avid consumers of videos. In the last year alone, there has been a 40 percent increase in online video consumption among young people in Ecuador, explaining YouTube's recent growth in popularity and leading it to be the social media site with the fastest growing popularity rate in Ecuador.

This studio will also enable Mission Ecuador to help train the next generation of Ecuadorian journalists through partnerships with local universities. At the inaugural event, U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador Todd C. Chapman witnessed the signing of agreements with two universities for programs to collaborate in content production and journalism student training. The embassy will pursue future agreements with universities, civil society organizations and the media for content dissemination.

The studio also offers the tools to work collaboratively with embassy sections and agencies to produce programs and train representatives. Collaborative projects will be developed around specific mission-focused goals, including education, consular outreach, gender violence prevention, English-language training, commercial promotion and law enforcement cooperation.

Mariana Velasco, academic director of the journalism school at Universidad Técnica Equinoccial, agrees that the studio will not only help to train

| *Cont.* | ▼



The reception area is comfortable and practical, with lounge chairs and a makeup station.

*State Department photo*





Ambassador Chapman signs agreements with local universities.

*State Department photo*

students but also help them to disseminate messages to a broader audience. According to Velasco, “The agreement between Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial and the Embassy of the United States of America in Quito opened the doors...to facilitate the use of state-of-the art technology for the production of content for radio audiences and allow students the opportunity to strengthen their audio production skills. Journalism students have had access to this studio since April to produce radio content on a variety of subjects of interest to the Ecuadorian community.”

A Universidad de las Americas student in a training session concurs. “Undoubtedly, this is a step forward in satisfying the global needs of our time,” said Ramon Murillo. “Young people are not only consuming new content, but also creating it. El Panecillo studio offers the possibility of promoting new ideas and new audiovisual products through which college students can express themselves in a free and creative way.”

Mission Ecuador offers this new facility to other missions in the region for digital production/media, social media or digital diplomacy training. The embassy is pleased to share its experience in developing and programming this production space with interested posts around the world. For further information about El Panecillo, contact the embassy at [contacto.usembuio@state.gov](mailto:contacto.usembuio@state.gov).

■ *Johanna Villalobos is the information officer at the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador. Silvia D’Aniello is an information assistant at the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador.*



The set is state-of-the-art—with lighting, three cameras, Chroma key and different backdrops.  
*State Department photo*



Ambassador Chapman cuts the ribbon at the inauguration.

*State Department photo*





# Rewarding Challenge

Mission Russia postings offer dynamic and rewarding experiences

By Mission Russia staff

**O**n a July day in 2017, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) posted on its website that the U.S. Mission would have to downsize its American and local staff by 60 percent. The MFA simultaneously convoked and delivered this same message to the ambassador. Three days later, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Russian state television that the U.S. Mission to Russia would have to downsize by 750 staff. The mission completed the staffing cuts by the September 1 deadline, preserving mission-critical functions while separating local staff and sending U.S. diplomats on to other assignments.

The following months were full of other measures by Russia and responses by the U.S. government. In March, the Russian Federation again convoked the U.S. Ambassador and publicly announced the expulsion of 60 U.S. diplomats and the closure of the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg. These actions were in retaliation for the expulsion of 60 Russian undercover agents from the United States and the closure of the Russian Federation's consulate in Seattle, actions conducted after the Russian state tried to assassinate a British citizen and his Russian daughter in the U.K. | *Cont.* | ▼



These high-profile actions and responses and the ongoing tensions in the bilateral relationship, however, are only one part of the story of serving at the U.S. Mission to Russia. The larger and more profoundly human story is one of public service, community and the tremendous opportunities to learn about the Russian people, their country and culture. Those who serve at the U.S. Mission conduct important work that supports and advances U.S. national security interests.

U.S. engagement with Russian officials and society is even more critical now, as Russia decides whether it will become a partner that resolves global problems or remain adversarial. In response to an email soliciting input, Americans who have served at the U.S. Mission have offered their thoughts on the benefits of working in Moscow, Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok at such a critical time.

## Embassy Moscow

Moscow is an incredibly rewarding post that fosters skills and knowledge valued across the interagency as diplomats seek to discern how the U.S. and Russia relate to each other. The issue set is broad and high profile, which draws the attention of senior leadership across the government, allowing everyone an opportunity for policy input and high-level engagement. Locally employed staff are experienced and dedicated professionals.

Though the pace of work is intense, achieving a healthy work-life balance is possible, even for families with children. The compound offers staff green space, as well as a gym, pool, basketball court, salon, commissary and dry cleaner. Those who live on the compound have no commute, and children who attend the Anglo-American School of Moscow can board buses directly from the compound. The Employee Association runs a fantastic preschool and day care on site.

Moscow is a vibrant, walkable city, with parks that serve as public recreation centers. It is full of coffee shops, restaurants, exhibits, outdoor stages, skating rinks and sledding hills. The Bolshoi, concert halls, museums, | *Cont.* | ▼



Ambassador Huntsman jumps rope during a tour of Sokolniki park. *Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Moscow*



Embassy staff ride the Moscow metro on their way to Comic-Con Russia. *Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Moscow*



world-class restaurants and one of the best public transportation systems in the world contribute to the city's rich culture. Long weekends away are inexpensive and easy, with great connections to Europe, Asia and the Middle East. English is widely spoken in Moscow, making life much easier for those new to the Russian language.

### **Consulate Vladivostok**

Vladivostok is a port city that has proved strategic time and again; its location serves as a vantage point that overlooks the Korean Peninsula. Here, Americans helped to bring war equipment to Imperial Russia for transport to the western front in World War I. They administered almost half of America's Lend Lease program during World War II, ensuring that American airplanes made their way across the Bering Strait for onward travel to the western front, and that American Liberty ships unloaded their cargo in Vladivostok.

Now, U.S. diplomats represent America and the American people in the largest consular district in the world. A typical assignment at Consulate Vladivostok includes one rest and recuperation trip and four read trips every year to Moscow, Seoul or Tokyo. These trips enable officers to catch up on classified reading and stay apprised of the political events in Russia's capital city.

From Vladivostok, travelers can visit eight other regions and learn more about the culture of the areas, including the black sand beaches and hot springs of Kamchatka, the sun worshipping and horse-revering way of life of the Yakuts, and the remnants of the notorious Gulag system in Magadan. Sakhalin Island, where there is skiing in winter, is only an hour-and-a-half flight away. Adventurous souls can travel to Chukotka, located directly across from Alaska, and meet the indigenous Chukchi people. Vladivostok is also the eastern terminus of the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway. | *Cont.* | ▼



Car lights on the Golden Bridge illuminate the evening sky in Vladivostok.

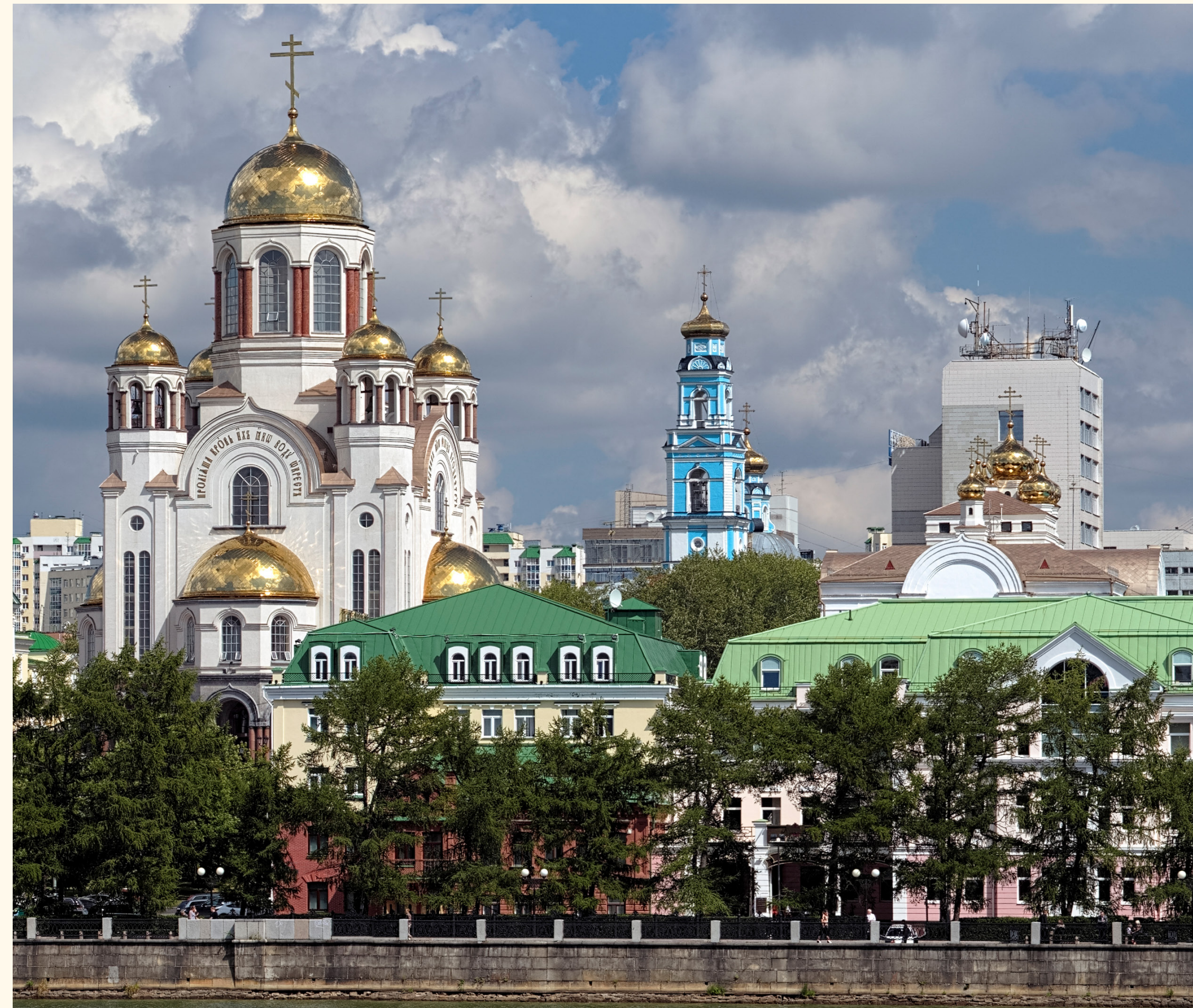
*State Department photo*



## Consulate Yekaterinburg

Yekaterinburg is recognized as Russia's third cultural capital, with renowned cuisine and art. Yekaterinburg doubles as the region's industrial powerhouse and a vibrant university city. A dynamic post tasked with taking the pulse of Russia's industrial heartland, Consulate Yekaterinburg offers mid-level officers leadership opportunities as heads of sections. All personnel travel around the region—with five cities of more than 1 million people—directly supporting people-to-people and business-to-business ties. Winters are long and cold, but the people of the region are warm and welcoming with a Russian Midwest sensibility. The long cold season flies by with time spent downhill and cross-country skiing, ice skating and dog sledding. Yekaterinburg is also a history lover's paradise, from the rich connections to the Russian royal family—including the site of the last czar's murder in 1918—to the hometown and presidential museum of Boris Yeltsin. Yekaterinburg's airport offers direct flights to more than 20 European and resort destinations, and Moscow is only a two-hour flight away.

With such dynamic culture and diverse geography serving as the background for one of the most important diplomatic missions facing the U.S. today, Russia remains a destination of choice for those who seek meaningful, challenging and rewarding work on the front lines of foreign policy. ■



The Church-on-the-Blood was built on the site where the last czar and his family were killed in 1918.

*Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Moscow*



**Robin S. Bernstein - U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic**

Robin S. Bernstein of Florida is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic. Bernstein has four decades of experience in business, government and the nonprofit community. Bernstein was administrative assistant to a County Commissioner of the Palm Beach County Commission, West Palm Beach, Fla., and executive secretary to the assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

**Jonathan R. Cohen - Deputy Representative of the U.S. to the U.N.**

Jonathan R. Cohen (SFS) of California is the new Deputy Representative of the U.S. to the U.N., with the rank of Ambassador, and, concurrently, Deputy Representative of the U.S. in the Security Council of the U.N. Cohen previously was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs covering Cyprus, Greece and Turkey. Earlier, he served in Baghdad as Deputy Chief of Mission; in Paris as the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission; as the Minister Counselor for Political Affairs Deputy Chief of Mission in Nicosia; and Counselor for Political-Military Affairs in Rome. Cohen has been a Foreign Service officer since 1986, and has served at posts including Ankara, Irbil, Baghdad, Stockholm, Vienna, Washington, Jerusalem and Bangkok.

**David B. Cornstein - U.S. Ambassador to Hungary**

David B. Cornstein of New York is the new U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Cornstein is a businessman and civic leader. He is the chairman of Pinnacle Advisors, Ltd. and was previously president, CEO and chairman of Finlay Enterprise. A native New Yorker, Mr. Cornstein served as vice chair of the city's Economic Development Corporation. He was also chair of the New York State Olympic Games commission and a board member of the Battery Park City Authority. Cornstein has served on the Board of New York Law School, the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

**James Randolph (Randy) Evans - U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg**

James Randolph (Randy) Evans of Georgia is the new U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg. Evans is a distinguished attorney, author and public servant. Evans has served in both national and state government. He was counsel to the office of the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1995–2007 and special attorney general, Office of the Attorney General of Georgia, 2007–2010. Evans has been a leader in both the American Bar Association and the Georgia Bar Association, serving in leadership positions in both.



A dark grey desk with various items: a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages in the top left, a black pencil resting on it, a pair of black-rimmed glasses in the center left, and a silver pen in the bottom left.

### **Francis R. Fannon - U.S. Assistant Secretary of State (Energy Resources)**

Francis R. Fannon of Virginia is the new Assistant Secretary of State (Energy Resources). Fannon has been a businessman in the global energy and resources industries, an attorney and a senior staffer in the U.S. Senate. As a senior staffer in the U.S. Senate, he served as counsel to the Committee on Environment & Public Works from 2003–2007, senior legislative assistant in the Office of U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell from 2001–2003, and legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici from 2000–2001.

### **Ronald Gidwitz - U.S. Ambassador to Belgium**

Ronald Gidwitz of Illinois is the new Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium. Gidwitz is a businessman and civic leader. He has been a partner at GCG Partners in Chicago since 1998. Gidwitz served as a national board member of the Smithsonian Institution and board member of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He has served as chair and board member of the Field Museum of Natural History and board member of the Museum of Science and Industry.

### **Harry B. Harris, Jr. - U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea**

Harry B. Harris Jr. of Florida is the new Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Adm. Harris assumed command of U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) May 27, 2015. Harris has served in every geographic combatant command region and participated in numerous high-profile naval and joint operations, including the first Gulf War, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn. Harris' staff assignments include aide to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan; chief speechwriter for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and three tours on the Navy Staff. Harris was assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during which time he traveled with the secretary of state.

### **Joseph N. Mondello - U.S. Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago**

Joseph N. Mondello of New York is the new Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. An attorney, soldier and politician, Mondello has served as the chairman of the Nassau County Republican Committee in Westbury, N.Y. since 1983. Mondello has been Of Counsel at Berkman, Henoch, Peterson, Peddy & Fenchel, P.C. of Garden City, N.Y. since 1997. He honorably served as an airman in the New York Air National Guard (1955–1956), a corporal in the U.S. Army (1956–1958) and in the New York Guard for 25 years, attaining the rank of Major General. Mondello also served as assistant district attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office Trial Bureau, and as special agent at the Office of Naval Intelligence. He served as counsel to the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly.



A dark grey desk with various items: a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages in the top left, a black pencil with a pink eraser, a pair of black-rimmed glasses, and a silver pen in the bottom left.

### **Tibor Peter Nagy, Jr. - Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs**

Tibor Peter Nagy Jr. of Texas is the new Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Nagy is a retired career member of the Senior Foreign Service and served from 1978 to 2003. He was ambassador to Ethiopia (1999–2002) and Guinea (1996–1999) and served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Nigeria, Cameroon and Togo. Nagy speaks Hungarian and French.

### **Brian A. Nichols - U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe**

Brian A. Nichols (SFS) of Rhode Island is the new Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe. Nichols previously was a senior advisor in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Ambassador to Peru from 2014–2017. Nichols is a 29-year Foreign Service veteran with experience overseas and domestically in five different bureaus. He has served in multiple positions, including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy Bogota; Director of the Office of Caribbean Affairs; Political Counselor in Jakarta; and International Relations Officer in the Office of United Nations Political Affairs.

### **Robert Charles O'Brien - Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs**

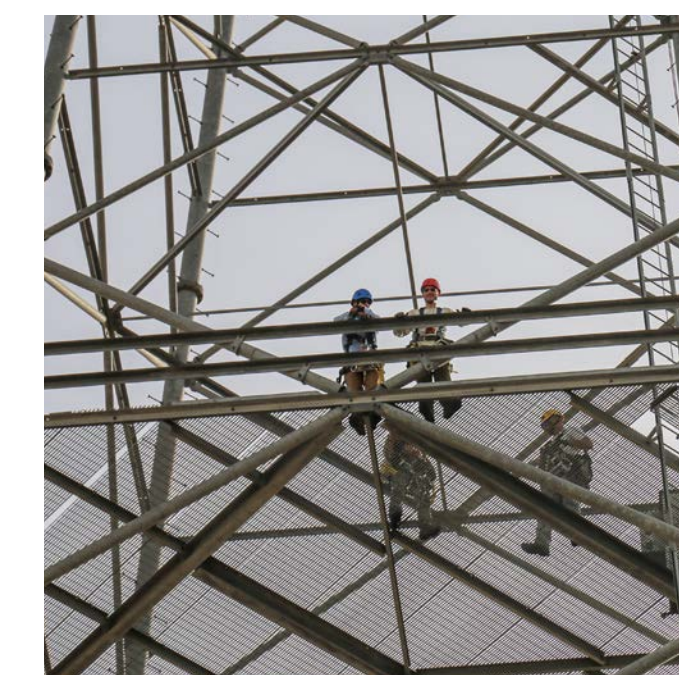
Robert Charles O'Brien of California is the new Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs. O'Brien is an attorney, diplomat and author, and he has extensive government and private sector experience in national security and foreign policy matters. O'Brien has been named one of the top 100 lawyers in California and one of the top 500 lawyers in America. O'Brien was appointed as a Representative to the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, served as co-chairman of the Department of State's Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan from 2007–2011 and was appointed to serve as a member of the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee in 2008. O'Brien served as a major in the JAG Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve, and he was a senior legal officer with the United Nations Security Council in Geneva, 1996–1998.

### **Gordon D. Sondland - U.S. Ambassador to the European Union**

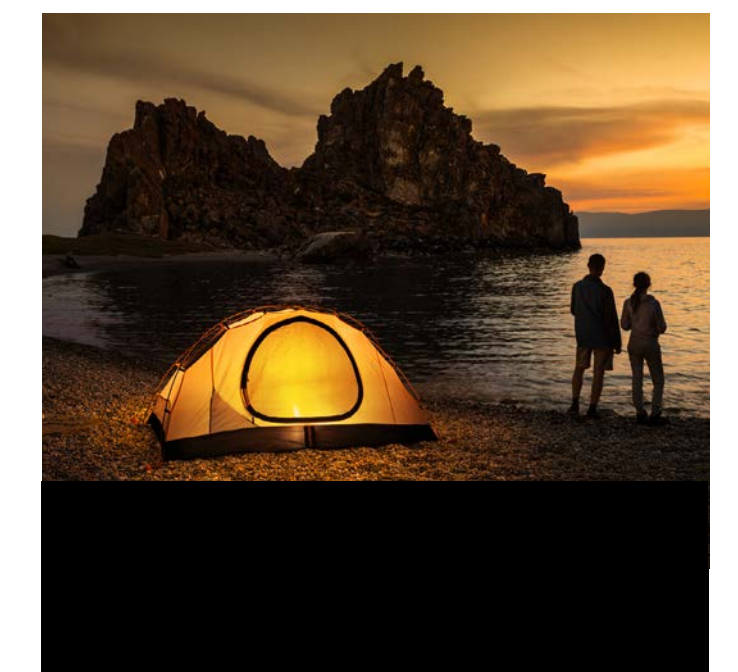
Gordon D. Sondland of Washington is the new Ambassador to the European Union. Sondland is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Aspen Lodging Group, LLC in Portland, Ore. Sondland was the senior advisor to the governor in Oregon, during which time he created a strong partnership and working relationship between the White House and governor's office. Sondland managed the The Aspen Group for nearly 15 years and has served on the Advisory Board of U.S. Bancorp for more than a decade.



## USEU supports innovation at Makerstown



**TAP** Image  
to Read Story

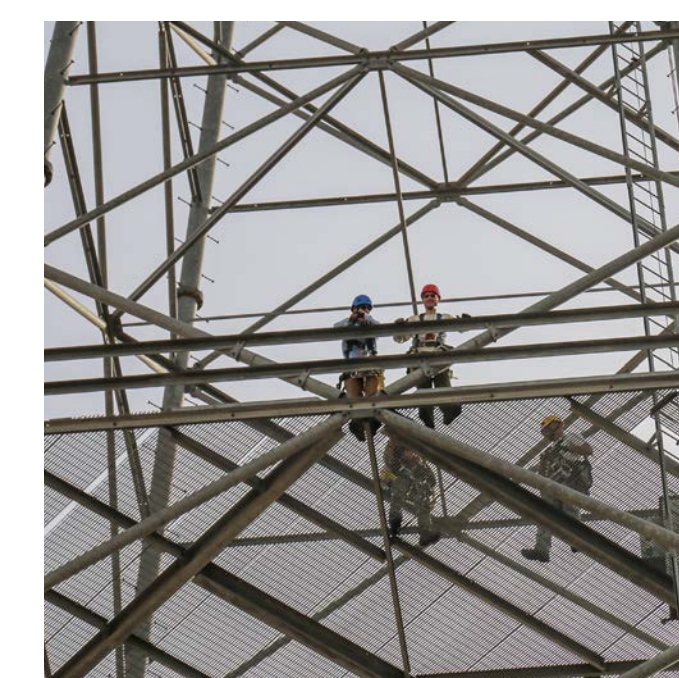


The U.S. Mission to the European Union (USEU) was proud to support [Makerstown](#), which brought together more than 2,000 students, inventors, entrepreneurs, policymakers and business leaders for a day of creation, creativity and innovation, May 22. Students and visitors engaged in hands-on workshops, debates and high-tech exhibitions that showed the integral and transformational role of technology in today's society, and what it can do for the future. The event was organized by USEU's programming partner, Brussels-based organization ThinkYoung, which is committed to advocating for and empowering the next generation of EU citizens. ■

*Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Seoul*



## Ambassador recognized for contributions to diversity in foreign affairs



**TAP** Image  
to Read Story



The International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) presented its 2018 Diversity Award to the former Ambassador to the African Union Reuben Brigety, April 28. The Department sends 10 participants annually to ICAP, and boasts more than 100 Department alumni. Brigety, currently the dean of the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, was recognized for his contribution to diversity in foreign affairs. ■

*Photo by Benjamin Garcia*

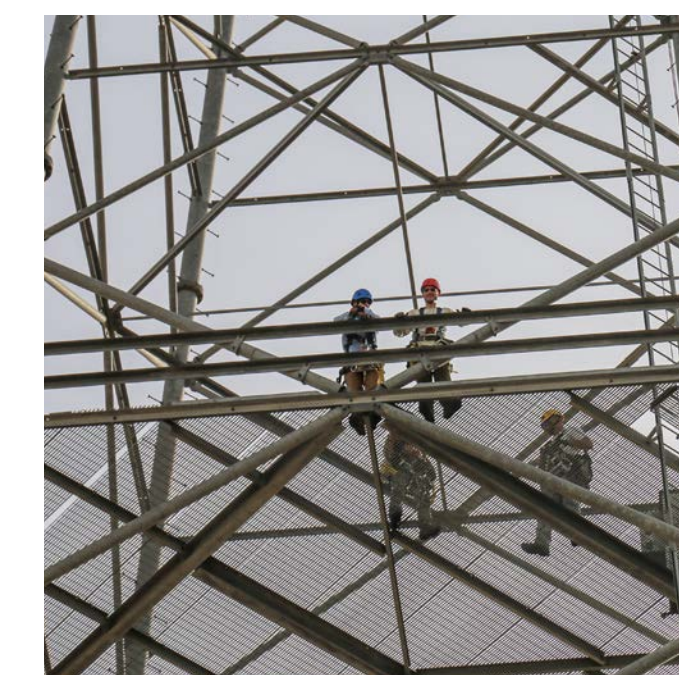
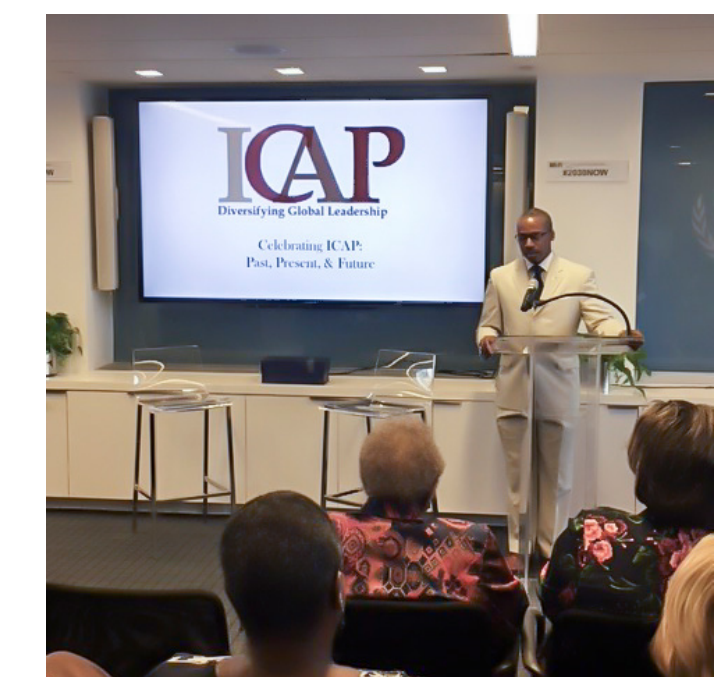


## Radio tower climb offers new perspectives in Baghdad

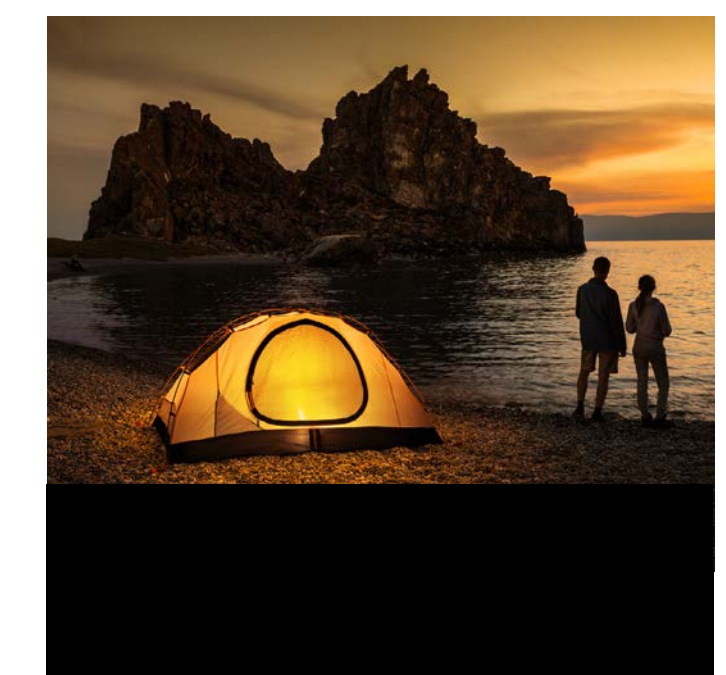
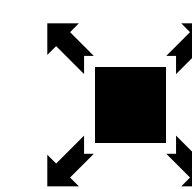


From left: Jonathan Zimbelman from the Embassy Baghdad RSO radio office, Ammar Ridha from the IRM radio shop, Deputy Chief of Mission Joey Hood, and Oscar Negrón from Hood's protective detail, climbed a 100-meter radio tower (328 feet) located inside the embassy compound as part of a familiarization tour of the many operations that keep the embassy up and running. The Bureau of Information Resource Management and the Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, which maintains the tower, ensured that the climbers received the required training and safety briefings before the ascent to assess how tower maintainers keep it in working order. ■

*State Department photo*



**TAP** Image  
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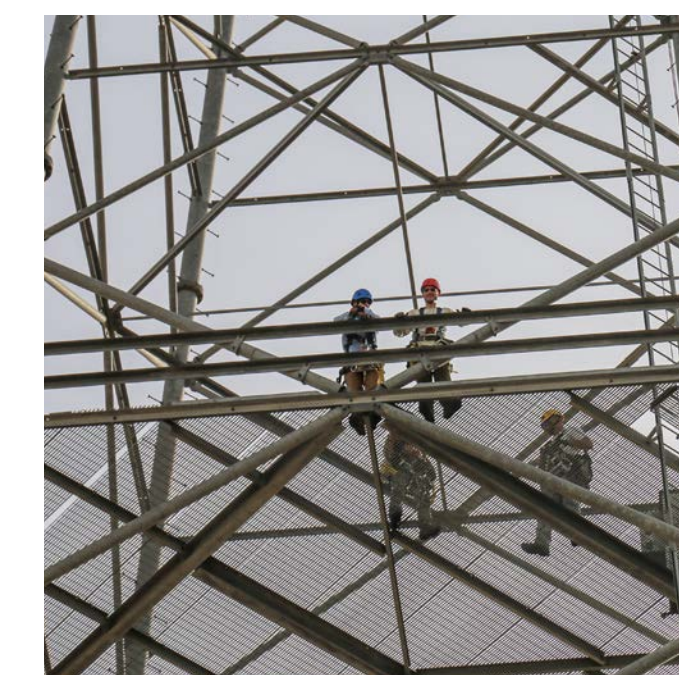


## Women pursue peace in Korean peninsula

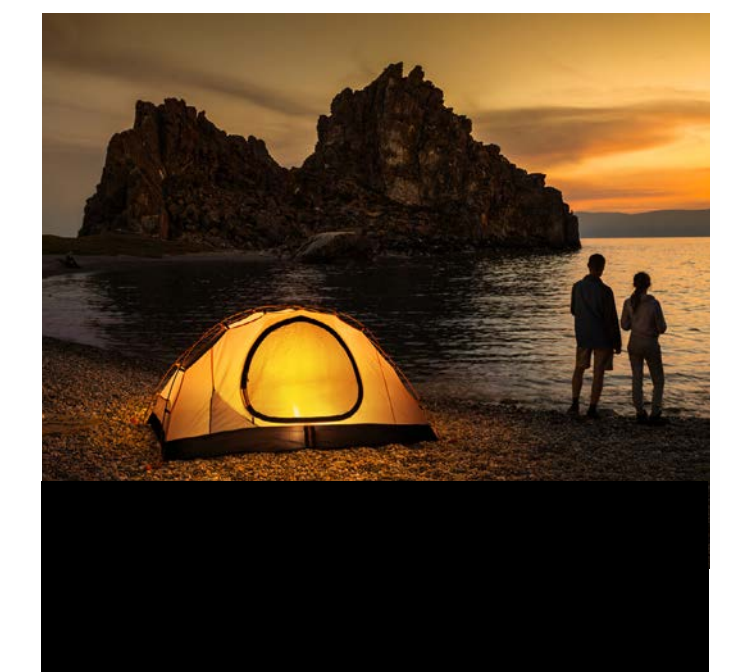
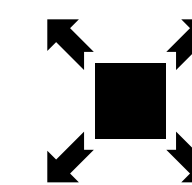


Members of Women Cross DMZ and the Nobel Women's Initiative visited U.S. Embassy Seoul, May 25, to explore ideas on how they can play a constructive role in the diplomatic peace process between the United States and North Korea. The delegation members also discussed ways to turn the U.S. commitment to women's inclusion in the peace process into concrete action. Embassy Seoul posted a tweet about the meeting, which reached more than 16,000 people. ■

*Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Seoul*



**TAP** Image  
to Read Story





## Retirements

### Civil Service

Alexander, Mabel E.  
Alston-Bullock, Vickie  
Angeles, Elaine  
Baker, David W.  
Borja, Susan E.  
Brennan, Daniel J.  
Brown, Tywana  
Butler, Brenda T.  
Cagan, Debra L.  
Camargo, Flora  
Cartledge, Willie R.  
Dent, Mary Catherine  
Dobbs, Michael  
Dofflemyer, Judith Lynn  
Doyle, James D.  
Driver, Helen L.  
Elrayah, Tagelsir H.  
Foughty, Michael A.  
Frisa, Lillian E.  
Ganser, Michelle A.  
Gerrald, Blanchie V.  
Grafeld, Margaret P.  
Green, Darlene W.  
Hamilton, Terry B.  
Hoch, Ronald E.  
Holt, Marilyn P.  
Horn, William W.  
Ingram, Yvonne D.  
Johnson, Ardelia  
Kartchner, Kerry M.  
Kellerhals, Merle D.

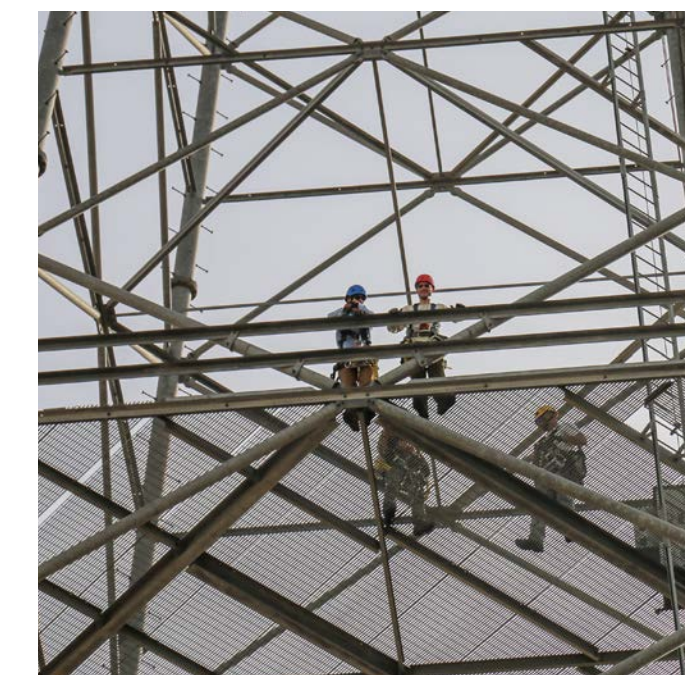
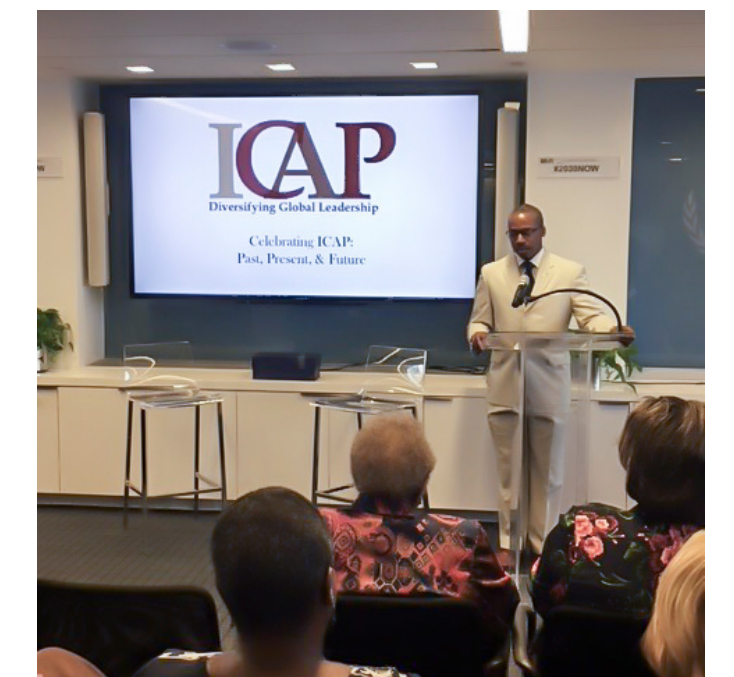
Kelley, Mark Antwine  
Keys, Carol L.  
Knight, Gregory D.  
Kocvara, Jan  
Koehler, Keith D.  
Lacey, Edward J.  
Laing, Peter  
Leventhal, Todd A.  
Linthicum, David H.  
Manansala, Renato G.  
Mayberry, Esther C.  
Milburn, Loretta Gentry  
Moore, Joanne C.  
O'Mara, Martin J.  
Padilla, Marte  
Rasque, Audrey W.  
Sedlins, John Z.  
Smith, Peter F.  
Stewart, Battie H.  
Tondo, Dominic  
Wanza, Wardell J.  
Warren, Kaye W.  
Weber, Laura  
Williams, Cheryl D.  
Williams, Clarie B.  
Williams, Paula A.  
Williamson, Timothy G.

### Foreign Service

Akuetteh, Cynthia H.  
Bosshardt, Marcia P.  
Brackins, David A.

Brault, Steven F.  
Brown, Dolores M.  
Canning, Mark  
Carlson, Aubrey A.  
Cefkin, Judith B.  
Cekuta, Robert F.  
Chacon, Alida E.  
Chisholm, Frances M.  
Combs-Ashruf, Ingrid G.  
Cordell, Janis W.  
Davis, Mary E.  
Diop, Margaret B.  
Engert, Steven F.  
Fennerty, John J.  
Ferguson, Mitchell  
Fern, Daniel D.  
Ford, Peter D.  
Grau, Debra L.  
Gregory, Lisa B.  
Heffern, John A.  
Herring, Michael A.  
Higgins, Susan L.  
Howlett, Patricia J.  
Jacobson, Roberta A.  
James, Brenda M.  
Kashkett, Steven B.  
Kinnett, Jeanne P.  
Klein, Thomas P.  
Koenig, Mary Ellen N.  
Little, Jennifer J.  
Lowry, Donald L.  
Mahmood, Najib

Marafino, Richard A.  
Mathis, Christopher W.  
Matienzo, Hector R.  
McCulla, William Lewis III  
Motley, Mark E.  
Mullins, David W.  
Murphy, James J.  
O'Neal, Diane M.  
Pate, Joseph M.  
Patterson, Martha E.  
Pierce, Thomas C.  
Quick, Delia D.  
Rice, Barry W.  
Richardson, Eric N.  
Robb, George A.  
Robertson, Jeffrey J.  
Rosenberg, Emily J.  
Schwarcz, Julius J.  
Scott, David L.  
Shelton, Grace W.  
Snead, Janice B.  
Stultz, Timothy J.  
Theis, James P.  
Thompson, Edward C.  
Wetmore, Kevin E.  
Wheat, Valerie J.  
Wilde, Bradley G.  
Wildermuth, Mark J.  
Yun, Joseph Y.  
Zeya, Uzra S.



**TAP** Image  
to Read Story

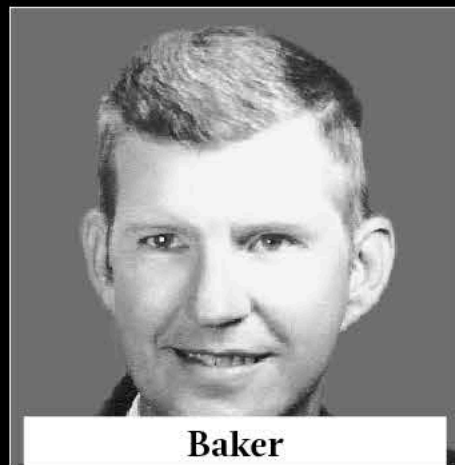




# In Memoriam



Arcement



Baker



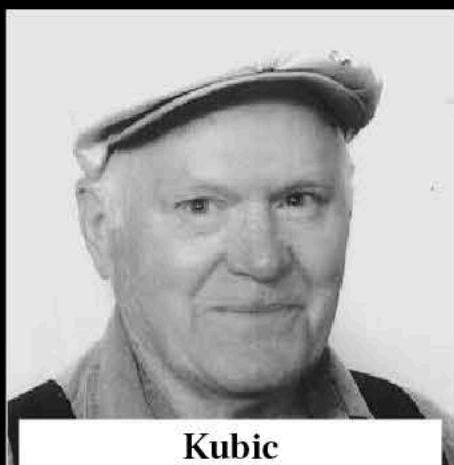
Farrell



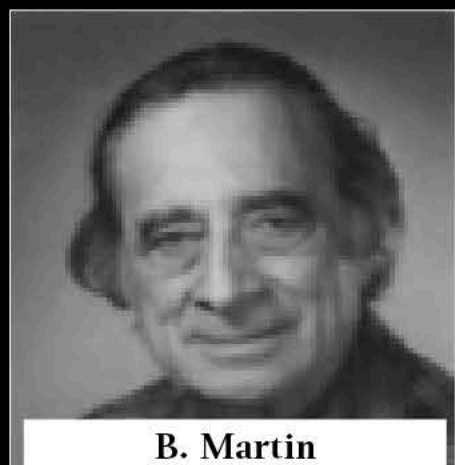
Hartwell



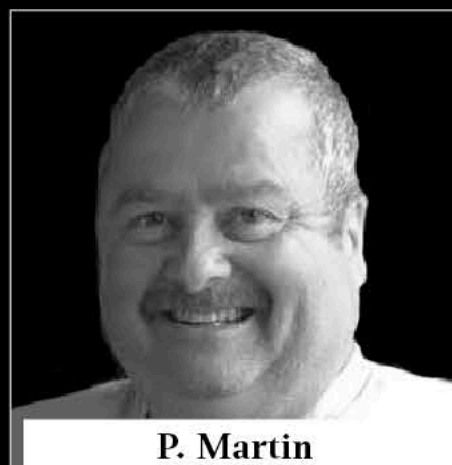
Low



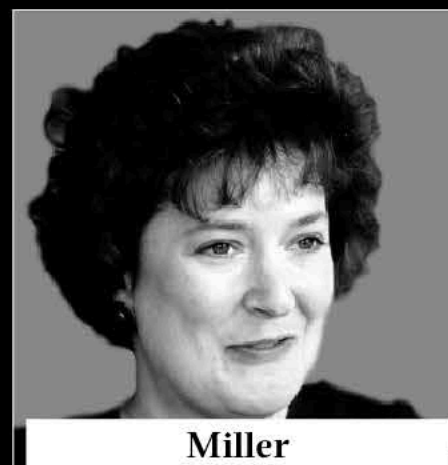
Kubie



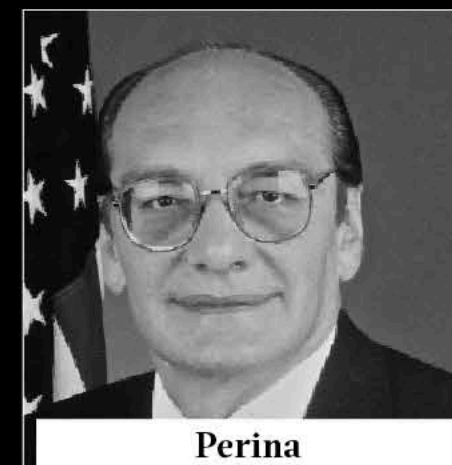
B. Martin



P. Martin



Miller



Perina



Perry



Schiele



Seefeldt



Sura

*Questions concerning employee deaths should be directed to the Office of Casualty Assistance at (202) 736-4302.  
Inquiries concerning deaths of retired employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960.  
For specific questions on submitting an obituary, please contact Heidi Howland at [howlandh@state.gov](mailto:howlandh@state.gov).*





# In Memoriam

## Margaret Arcement



Margaret Arcement died June 11 in Lake Charles, La. Arcement was the spouse of retired Foreign Service officer Ned Arcement. She was born and raised in Tully, N.Y. Arcement joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1966 and was subsequently assigned to the USAID Mission in New Delhi, India, where she served from 1966 to 1969. After USAID, Arcement joined the Department as a Foreign Service officer, and she and her husband served together for 20 years, at posts including Warsaw, Port-au-Prince, Dhaka, Praia and Ottawa. Arcement is survived by one sister, four nieces, one nephew and a great niece.





# In Memoriam

## John H. Baker



Dr. John H. Baker, 91, died on April 21. Baker grew up in Uxbridge, Mass. After graduating from Uxbridge High School in 1943, Baker joined the U.S. Army and served in Japan. Baker then earned a B.A. from Calvin College and an M.D. from Tufts University Medical School. In 1963, he joined the Department as a medical officer and worked at posts that included Yemen, Iraq, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Indonesia, the Philippines and China. After retiring from the Department, Baker served at reservation hospitals in the Sioux Territory, served on the board of the Whitinsville Social Library and contributed regular columns to the local newspaper. Baker is predeceased by his wife of 60 years, and by a sister. He is survived by a sister, his children and grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Eileen Antonette Farrell



Eileen Antonette Farrell, 77, died April 14 in Alexandria, Va. Farrell was a Foreign Service officer whose posts included Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, the U.K., France, Belgium and Canada. She retired from the Foreign Service in 1994. During both her work life and in retirement, she was active in community theater and enjoyed traveling.





# In Memoriam

## Ralph B. Hartwell



Ralph B. Hartwell, 88, died Nov. 24, 2017, in Londonderry, N.H. He was predeceased by his wife, Lois. Hartwell was born in Leominster, Mass., and proudly served his country for more than 50 years. He spent 20 years in the U.S. military (Navy and Air Force) before joining the Department for an additional 20 years of service as a Foreign Service officer. Hartwell served at embassies in Portugal, Nigeria, Spain, Italy, Sri Lanka, Barbados and Sinai. After retiring, he continued to serve with the Department for an additional 10 years as a re-employed annuitant. Hartwell is survived by his two sons, his daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Helen Sue Carpenter Low



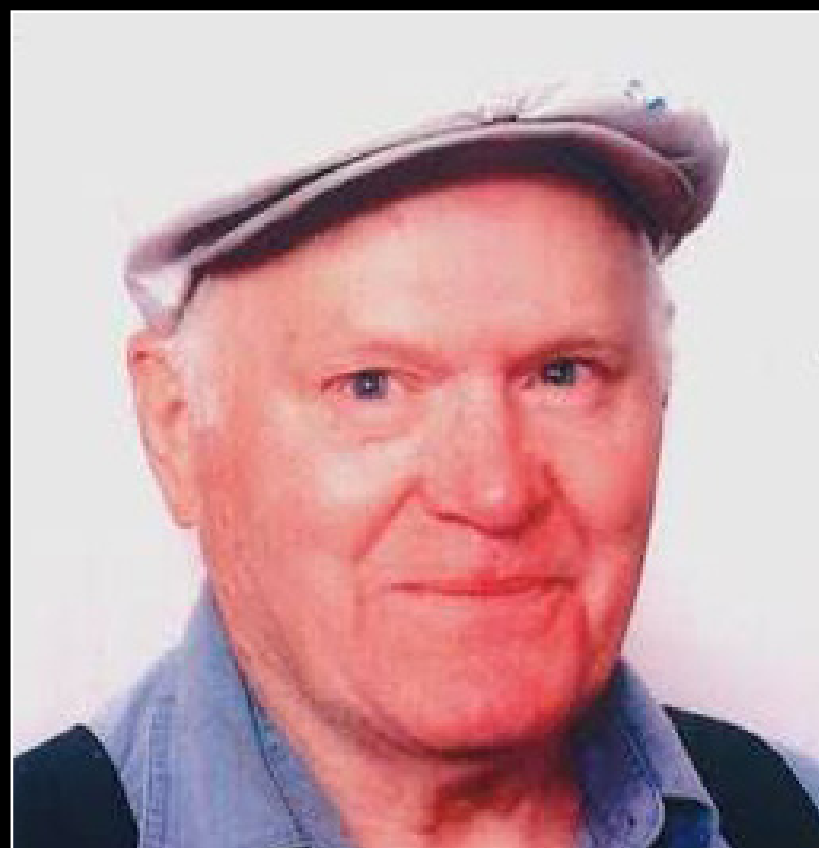
Helen Sue Carpenter Low, 91, died April 26, in Ashland, Mass. Low was born in Tulsa, Okla. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Denison, received her master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, and completed her honors at Somerville College of Oxford University as a Fulbright scholar in 1951. In 1956, Low married Foreign Service officer Stephen Low, who served tours of duty in Uganda, Senegal, Brazil, Zambia, Nigeria and the U.S. In Zambia, Low was instrumental in establishing and managing Zambia Orphans of AIDS. Low also worked to improve the status of Foreign Service spouses; wrote many papers for the Departments of State and Commerce, the Overseas Development Council and the Atomic Energy Commission; and served on community school boards. Low is survived by her sons and five grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Frank Thomas Kubic



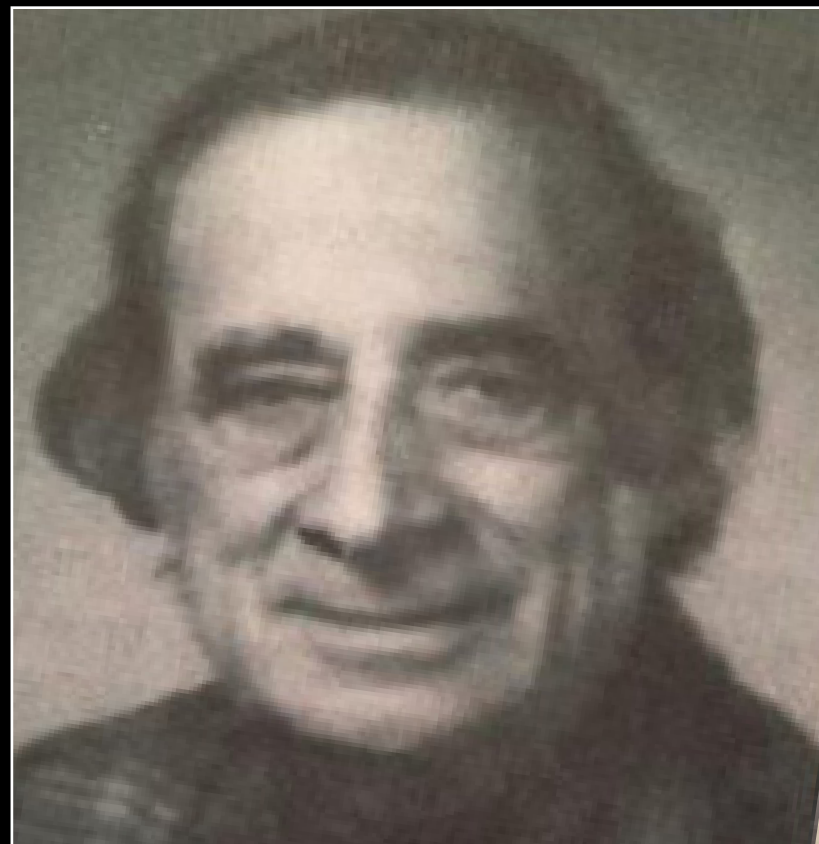
Frank Thomas Kubic, 92, died March 7. Born Feb. 16, 1926, in the Bronx, Kubic is a graduate of Tri-State and Siena College and was a U.S. Navy World War II veteran. Kubic's work experiences included being an industrial engineer, methods officer for Washington Hospital Center, stock market salesman and management analyst for the Department of State, where he worked mainly in a passport office. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Anne, his six children, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Benjamin Martin



Benjamin Martin, 100, died Feb. 19, a few months after celebrating his 100th birthday in Washington, D.C. Martin began his career as a factory worker and actively participated in the Congress of Industrial Organizations. A founder of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, he held a variety of posts with the union. During World War II, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Air Forces, serving mainly in Asia and North Africa, before demobilizing in Paris in 1947. Martin was a member of the national field staff of the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers and an international representative of the United Steelworkers of America. From 1966 to 1977, Martin was the senior labor specialist with the Department of State and, prior to that, was a labor information officer with the U.S. Information Agency in Santiago, Chile. Martin is survived by his wife Elizabeth, three sons and daughter.





# In Memoriam

## Pierre F. Martin



Pierre F. Martin, 53, died May 27, in Edina, Minn. After graduating from high school, Martin joined the U.S. Air Force and served eight years on active duty. He was a veteran of the First Gulf War. Martin was an overseas building operations employee with the Department and worked at more than 38 U.S. Embassies around the world, including Moscow and Beijing. Martin is survived by his wife of 25 years, Cecille, several siblings and many nieces and nephews.





# In Memoriam

## Suzette Marie Miller



Suzette Marie Miller, 55, died May 12. Miller served in various eligible family member positions in posts around the world, including Dublin, Niamey, San Jose, Geneva and Mexico City. In Niamey, she served as the office manager for the U.S. ambassador. During one of her husband's domestic tours, she served as a secretary to the Office of Nordic and Baltic Affairs in the Civil Service. Miller is survived by her husband, Ritchie Miller, her 12-year-old daughter, and her three siblings.





# In Memoriam

## Rudolf Vilem Perina



Rudolf Vilem Perina, 73, died June 14, in Vienna, Va. Perina entered the Foreign Service in 1972 and worked for more than three decades on European east-west relations during and after the Cold War, and on the Dayton Accords following the dissolution of the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Prior to his retirement, he served as Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, U.S. Special Negotiator for Eurasian Conflicts in the former Soviet Union, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Canadian Affairs. He was also director for European and Soviet Affairs on the National Security Council staff and attended the 1988 Moscow summit meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. He served as Chargé d'Affaires at U.S. Embassies including those in Chisinau, Yerevan, Reykjavik, Prague and Bratislava. He is survived by his wife, Ethel Hetherington, his two daughters and four grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Ben Perry



Ben Perry, 82, died June 30, in Washington, D.C. Perry worked for the Department, both as a Civil Service employee and a contractor, for more than 50 years. He began his career with the Department as a telecommunications specialist in 1960. From 1960–2001, he was a Civil Service employee. In 2001, Perry retired from the Civil Service and returned to the Department as a contractor. Perry participated in, and was often the first to sign up for, the Foreign Affairs Recreation Association annual talent show, where he affectionately sang Frank Sinatra’s song “My Way.” Perry is survived by his wife Gertrude, to whom he was married for 56 years, and his granddaughter.





# In Memoriam

## David Louis Schiele



David Louis Schiele, 79, died April 20, in Stroudsburg, Penn. He was born in Ogden, Utah and raised in Sacramento, Calif. Schiele graduated from Sacramento State College with honors and from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in East Asian Studies. He entered the Army and studied Russian at the Army Language School at the Presidio in Monterey, Calif. and served in Germany as a Russian translator. Schiele served in the Foreign Service from 1964 to 1993, at posts that included New Delhi, Hamburg, Saipan, Geneva, Montreal and New York. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Marylin Vlaovich Schiele, four sisters and five brothers.





# In Memoriam

## Raymond Walter Seefeldt



Raymond Walter Seefeldt, 82, died April 22, in Arlington Va. A native of Chicago, Seefeldt graduated from Valparaiso University (Ind.) with a B.A. in political science, and is also a graduate of the Army Language School and the National War College. Between 1958 and 1960, he served in the U.S. Army as a voice interceptor. He served for the Department as a Foreign Service officer from 1961 to 1987. His overseas postings included Mumbai, Bremen, Warsaw, Munich, Berlin, Ottawa and Frankfurt. After retiring from the Foreign Service, he worked as an international exchanges officer in the Office of International Relations at the Smithsonian Institution. Seefeldt is survived by his spouse, Elke, his children, a sister and grandchildren.





# In Memoriam

## Eleanor M. Sura



Eleanor M. Sura, 77, died Oct. 27, 2017, in Altoona, Pa. Sura was born in Elkhart, Ind. Sura accompanied her husband, George, a Foreign Service officer, on tours to posts that included Beirut, Washington, D.C., Bonn, Accra, Kinshasa and Mexico City. Sura worked in the APO and mail pouch sections while overseas, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, knitting and spending time with her family.







View the city center from the front car of the subway as you return from Mall of the Emirates to the Mall of Dubai.

*Photo by Jason Mrachina*

# End State

